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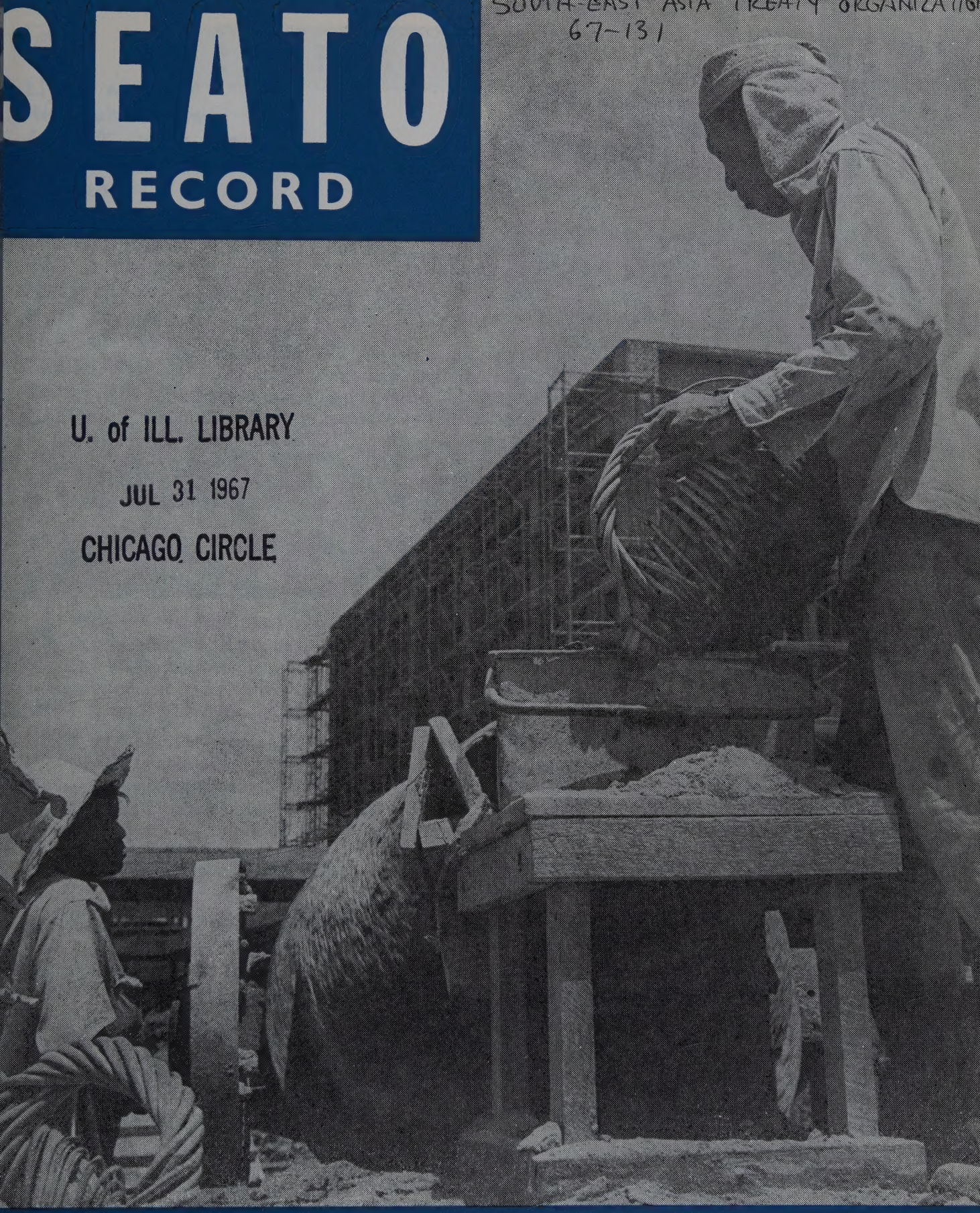
SEATO RECORD



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- A BLUEPRINT FOR PROGRESS
- A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH
- THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY

SEATO RECORD

SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

SEATO PROJECTS:

SEATO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

SEATO REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

SEATO VEHICLE REBUILD WORKSHOP

SEATO SKILLED LABOUR PROJECTS:

Thailand —

SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.
SEATO Teacher Development Centre, Bangkok.
SEATO Vocational Training Centres located in 19 provincial cities.

Pakistan —

SEATO Technical Training Centre, Dacca.
SEATO Technical Training Centre, Karachi.

Philippines —

SEATO Vocational Training Centre, Marikina.

SEATO MEDICAL PROJECTS:

Thailand —

SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok.
SEATO Clinical Research Centre, Bangkok.

Pakistan —

Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca.

SEATO CULTURAL PROGRAM:

Under-Graduate Scholarships, Post Graduate Scholarships, Fellowships, Professorships.

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COVER PICTURE:

A young assistant pauses in his labours to watch one of the workers mix cement against a background of fretwork scaffolding that surrounds the imposing structure of SEATO's new Headquarters building in Sri Ayudhya Road, Bangkok.

"SEATO Record" is published six times a year. Inquiries from official and private organizations, educational institutions, libraries etc. are welcomed and should be addressed to the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquarters, P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.

Living with the Red Lahu Tribe 4,000 ft. up in the Shan Mountains is Anthony Walker—a British anthropologist who is doing research on the tribe through SEATO for Thailand's Tribal Research Centre.

...LAND OF BLUE HORIZONS

A STUDY of the Red Lahu, one of the main hill peoples of northern Thailand, is being made by Anthony Walker, an anthropologist whose services are being contributed by the British Government to Thailand's Tribal Research Centre in Chiengmai through SEATO.

To get to the village where he lives and works, Anthony travels four hours — six in the rainy season — by car from the northern city of Chiengmai to the point where the road ends. He then walks for three hours — reduced by long practice from five — up a steep, tangled trail to a jungle clearing about 4,000 feet up in the mountains.

Like other Lahu villages, it has two names: Ban Pang Farn in Thai and Cha'o Ka in Lahu, "Cha'o" being the name of the Headman and "Ka" meaning village.

Language problem

The Lahu language belongs to the Tibeto-Burmese linguistic group and has no resemblance to Thai. Anthony talks with the villagers in Lahu, though he claims his knowledge of it is still superficial. His Thai assistant, Snit Wong-prasert, whom he is helping to train in social anthropology, uses northern Thai.

This, too, is not always satisfactory, for although most of the men in Cha'o Ka speak some northern Thai, picked up from the lowland people with whom they trade, their vocabulary is on the whole not large enough to convey anything but the most rudimentary kind of information. Moreover, their Thai pronunciation tends to be erratic, sometimes incomprehensible.

But language difficulties and friendly relations often co-exist. And this has been true of life in Cha'o Ka. When Anthony expressed his wish last August to build a house and establish himself as a resident there, Cha'o approved and personally supervised the finding of materials and labour.

All male villagers gave a day's work to the construction of the house, and in return Anthony provided a feast for the whole village. Preparations for the feast were directed by the Headman's wife.

The house is in Lahu style, built on piles and made of bamboo, with a thatched gable roof and log steps leading from the ground to an open porch behind which is a large room with an earthen fireplace towards the rear.

Anthony has added a feature of his own — a back veranda overlooking, as he claims, "one of the most beautiful views in the whole of Thailand". The younger Lahu people have taken a great liking to this architectural innovation, frequently using it as a playground and meeting place.

PLAYTIME...

Toys — at least the store-made variety — are hard come by in this remote mountain village, but potential pets abound, as the happy face of this squirrel's owner seems to imply.

●

Calling on one another is a favourite pastime. Throughout the day and in the early part of the evening, men, women and children wander in and out of the house. Sometimes as many as 20 drop in to sip tea and chat.

Meetings conducted by Cha'o to discuss village affairs have also been held here. To most villagers Anthony is the first white man they have ever seen; to all he is the first to be living among them. They are curious, but at the same time seem to be taking his presence very much in their stride. If they freely call on him, he is also a frequent visitor in their homes.

Cha'o Ka has a population of 107. Anthony said he could never have found this out if he had merely paid a short visit to the village. For the villagers themselves were rather vague about their exact numbers.

On the move

It was only after weeks of conversing over many cups of tea, and of counting and recounting that an important fact emerged: 40 per cent of the people who consider themselves members of Cha'o Ka do not live in the main village, but return for a few days' stay about once a month or at longer intervals from outlying hamlets some five to six kilometres away.

Cha'o Ka has been in existence at its present site for six years. It has moved three times during the past eight years. Most tribal peoples practise what is called the "slash-and-burn" or "shifting" method of agriculture; its disastrous effects on the land are one of the reasons why tribal villagers do not stay in one place for very long.

But there are other reasons for village movements. These must be studied in detail and their implications known so that any government plans aiming at permanent settlement for the hill peoples may be as practical as possible.

According to Anthony, of the three moves made by the village of Cha'o Ka over the past eight years, only one arose from land scarcity. One came about following an unusually high number of deaths in the village and the other because the chosen site turned out to be water-logged in the rainy season.

Anthony is still in the early stages of his work, which is a two-year project and the first intensive socio-anthropological study of the Red Lahu in Thailand. Few facts and figures are too insignificant for the purpose of the study.

He has recorded, for instance, that of the 17 households of Cha'o Ka, 16 have relatives in other houses, and that 13 households are composed of two generations of people while the other four have three generations.

●

Village Belle

'Nalama', belle of the Lahu village in which Anthony Walker is conducting socioanthropological studies, poses smilingly for the cameraman.

A bath—with respect

Pouring water on someone is a sign of paying respect. Headmen, heads of households, elderly relatives and Anthony Walker had water poured on them during New Year celebrations which, in Cha'o Ka, went on intermittently for nearly a month, with time off for work and rest.

●

Studying livestock, he finds that pigs are raised in every household, that they roam the surrounding jungles for food in addition to being fed twice a day on a tempting diet of rice bran, banana stalks, pumpkin and crushed maize, and that in general they are looked after by the women folk.

Many subjects studied

The animals raised, the crops cultivated, the methods used in these activities and the benefits derived from them; the relationship among the villagers and between villagers and outsiders; the duties and responsibilities of the Headman and the influence and power of the shamans; the status of women and the care of children; the rites associated with birth and death and the unwritten laws governing marriage and divorce; the concept of what is right and wrong and of deserving reward and punishment; the conflict, if any, between ancient beliefs and newly acquired attitudes — these are some of the subjects being treated in detail.

Mr. Walker's study is one of the several projects undertaken by the Tribal Research Centre in Chiengmai. Set up by the Thai Government in 1965 with assistance from SEATO member nations, one of its aims is to produce detailed studies using systematic anthropological techniques which will provide a sound basis for the government policy of giving the right kind of help to the semi-nomadic hill peoples — the Mao, Yao, Lisu, Lahu, Akha, Karen and others, whose numbers have been variously estimated at between 50,000 and 400,000.

Another anthropologist at the centre, Douglas Miles, is working on a study of the Yao in Poolangka, Ampur Pong, in the province of Chiengrai. Mr. Miles is from Australia and, like his colleague Peter Hinton who is serving as adviser to the centre, represents part of the Australian Government's SEATO assistance to Thailand.

●

A HOUSE—WITH THANKS

Anthony Walker's House is a popular place, not only for the villagers, but their cattle! These curious cows, before he had time to notice their predilection, amicably chewed up two pairs of his socks and a shirt.

A MATTER OF LIFE...

THE PAKISTAN-SEATO CHOLERA RESEARCH LABORATORY IS CONDUCTING THE FIRST EVER CONTROLLED TRIAL OF CHOLERA VACCINE AMONG MORE THAN 116,000 PEOPLE

...OR DEATH

THE death had been sudden. But then so had other deaths that year, and in every year that anyone in the village could remember.

Deaths from cholera in East Pakistan usually are swift, and each year in the winter months, the disease comes to take its fearful toll. It has been so since time immemorial, but time brings no hardening against fear, anxiety and grief.

The setting for this annual tragedy has an ageless charm. Days in November, December and January in East Pakistan are crisp and clear. Sunlight lies flat on the land, stubble-brown after the harvest except for the vivid yellow and green of mustard and vegetable crops.

Winter is a season of calm. Villages which were isolated by swirling floods in the monsoon season stand on mounds, tree-crowned, like stranded islands. Through the maze of broad waterways tufted with water hyacinth, tall country boats move stiffly with their cargoes of jute.

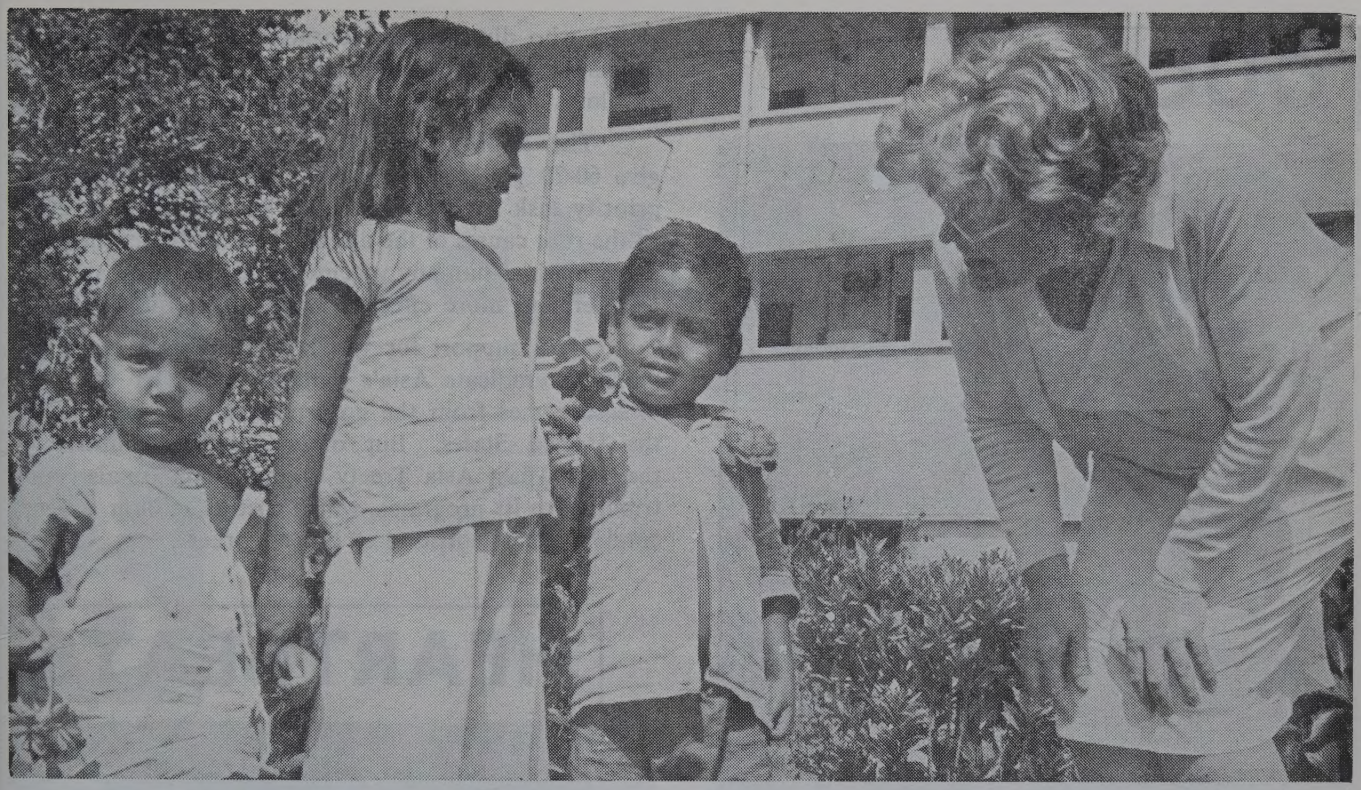
The role of water

Water dominates life. It is the master, the servant and the enemy of man in this delta land, where the Brahmaputra, spilling down from the Himalayas, and the Ganges, gathering the streams of the northern Indian plains, meet and flow to the Bay of Bengal.

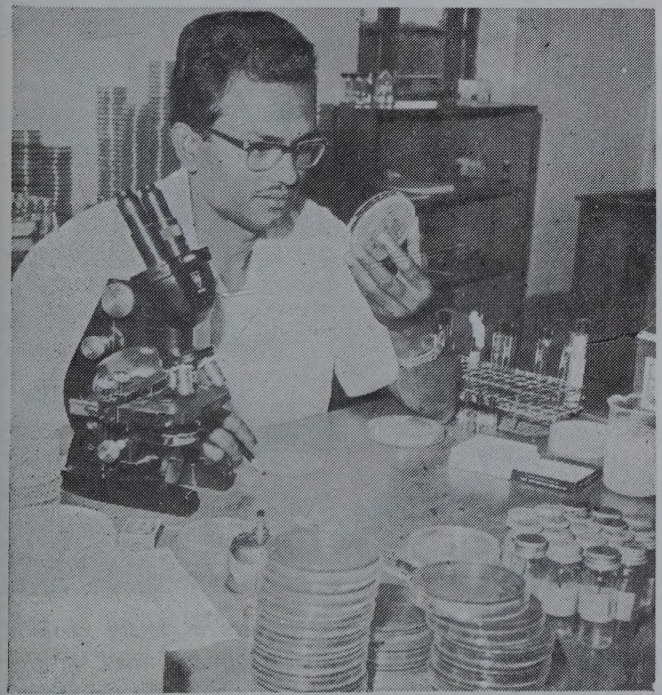
Master, in that it isolates communities, brings destruction in the monsoon, makes communications both costly and difficult to build; a servant in providing a network of natural highways and enriching the land; an enemy in bringing, in a way not fully understood, the anual tide of cholera to the millions who live beside the waterways.

In this silent landscape, the rattle of an outboard motor, the scurrying of a modern fibreglass boat on the mirror-smooth rivers introduce an incongruous sense of urgency.

Yet in the cholera season just ended — three times heavier than any since 1958-59 — small, fast boats



have meant the difference between life and death for hundreds of cholera victims in one area of East Pakistan's Comilla district. Fifteen of them, stationed



A laboratory technician examines plates streaked with specimens from cholera patients and incubated overnight. With a staff of some 500 the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory has become the world's main centre for studying the disease.

Three young patients convalescing from a cholera attack which a few days earlier had brought them close to death, play in the garden of the Laboratory. With them is the matron of the treatment ward, Miss D.G. Torrance, of Kirkcaldy, Scotland.

at villages in an area with a population of 116,000, are water ambulances for the first rural hospital in the country given over entirely to the treatment of cholera.

When Bilkis, a 10-year-old girl of Thatalia village in Comilla began to have the massive diarrhea characteristic of cholera in this year's epidemic season, her parents knew from long experience what was wrong with her. And for the first time in their lives they knew what to do about it.

Completely cured

The nearest ambulance boat was hastily called by her father and within an hour she was under treatment at the Matlab Bazar cholera hospital.

Four days later, she was home again, completely well, for once admitted to this hospital a cholera patient is virtually certain to recover. Without treatment, Bilkis' chance of life would have been between 20 and 50 per cent.

Bilkis' recovery is in itself a happy ending for herself, her family and her community. For the

OUCH!...

Under the watchful eye of their community leader Mahabhat Ali Sepoy, children of Sipaikandi village in Comilla district watch curiously as one youngster winces on receiving his cholera shot from a field worker of the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory.

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scientists at the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory, which operates the Matlab Bazar Hospital, it is a means to a much greater end: the finding of a vaccine which will give better than 90 per cent protection against cholera.

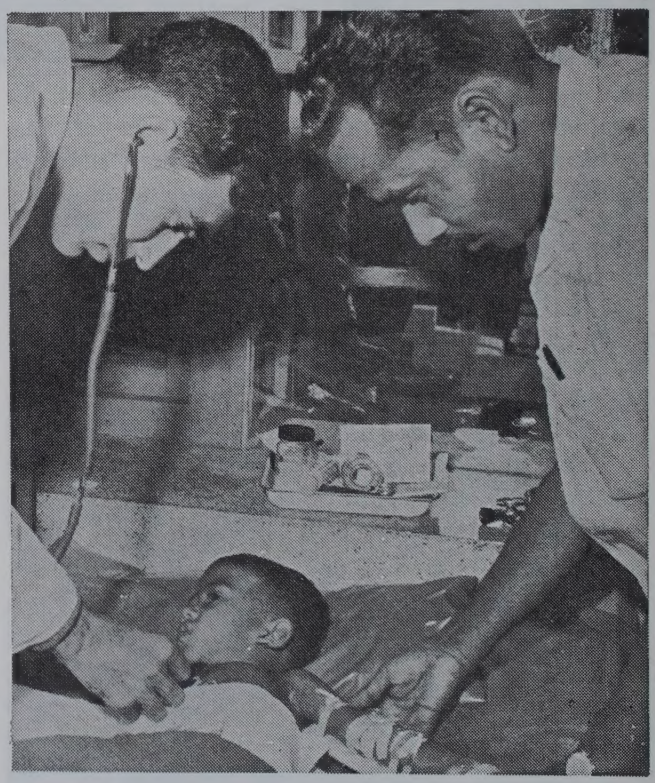
The Matlab Bazar hospital is in the centre of the laboratory's controlled vaccine trial area, where the entire population is under daily surveillance, and where four teams last yeat vaccinated over 1,000 people a day in the two months preceding the bumper cholera epidemic of 1966-67.

"We established the hospital because we do not want anyone in the vaccine trial area to die of diarrheal disease," states Dr. R.A. Phillips, veteran cholera expert who directs the laboratory, "and the people cooperate with us because they know we offer them an almost certain chance of recovery."

The improvement of existing vaccines, which give 60-70 per cent protection against cholera, is a priority task for the laboratory, but its studies go right to the root causes of the disease, seeking better methods of prevention than any vaccine could offer, and simpler, cheaper and more effective ways of treatment.

Main support for the laboratory's all-out campaign to eradicate Asia's number one killer epidemic disease comes from the governments of Pakistan and the United States. But other member countries of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization are also contributing to its programs, which cost $1 million a year, employ 500 scientists and other workers.

HEARTBEATS



Dr. K. M. M. Toaka, examines a young cholera patient after admission to the treatment ward of the laboratory — the cholera treatment centre for the Dacca district. An attendant splints and straps the child's left arm for the intravenous administering of solution to replace fluids lost from the body as a result of the disease.

SEATO ...a blueprint for progress

QUOTE:

"... SEATO has concentrated its development work in two general areas vital to Asia's future: medical and clinical research and labour and academic training."

ON Saturday morning, last October 29th, two men were seated in the library of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization's Graduate School of Engineering in Bangkok. One turned to the other and commented: "This is the only school of its kind in the world. It is very exciting, the establishment of a regional MIT for the East—a prototype for the other developing regions, which need such national institutes badly."

The comment came from Walt W. Rostow, Presidential aide and former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was directed to President Lyndon B. Johnson, making his first visit to a major economic project in Asia.

Mr. Rostow pointed out to the President that this school of engineering "is one of the best things that SEATO has done. This institution soon will graduate from its background in a military alliance, and become an independent institution of higher learning." The school's new name will be the Asian Institute of Technology.

By

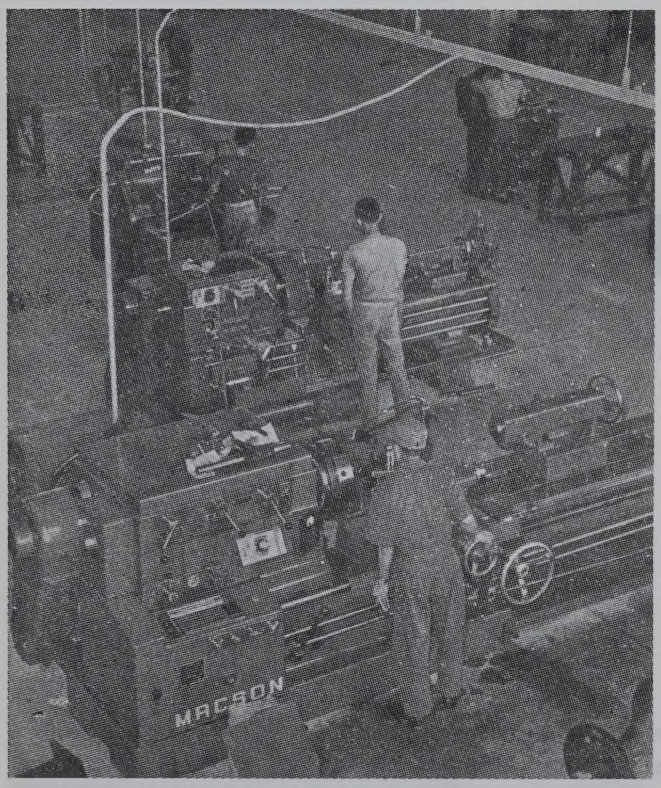
Annette Eberly

The President and scores of other visitors to South-East Asia have been more than gratified by the tangible proof they have seen of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization's manifold projects, aimed not only at military defence but at the very pressing goal of economic and social welfare for the peoples of the area, through the concept of regional cooperation.

SEATO's efforts are part of a vast and bold scheme sponsored by international organizations to help the development of South-East Asia by cutting across national boundaries and languages, and by stimulating a sense of Asian identity among the region's citizens.

One United Nations official, in his office overlooking the East River in New York City, said recently: "South-East Asia is realizing, perhaps for the first time in the past few centuries, that it is united by many factors—including geography, topography, and social problems that must be faced—and can only be faced together."

Several U.N. agencies and affiliated organizations are conducting projects similar to SEATO's in the region, and the Colombo Plan organization, the association of Commonwealth nations to aid developing countries, also is active. But SEATO is unique in combining collective security with cooperative development.



Trainees are pictured above operating modern lathes installed at the SEATO Military Technical Training School at Bangkhen, on the outskirts of Bangkok.

●

SEATO's projects, receiving little publicity in the deluge of news pouring out of the war front in Asia, are going ahead quietly but vigorously.

The South-East Asia Treaty Organization is now more than 12 years old; it was born in Manila, September 8, 1954. The treaty, or the Manila Pact as it is called, was signed by the Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The eight nations agreed to form a collective defence alliance in Asia, and pledged themselves to mutual economic, social and technical cooperation.

SEATO set up its headquarters in downtown Bangkok, where its multinational staff oversees a variety of programs that have borne fruit over the past decade. The organization has concentrated its development work in two general areas vital to Asia's future: medical and clinical research, and labour and academic training.

Recognizing that disease is one of the greatest destroyers of life and hope in Asia, SEATO helped establish a medical research laboratory in Bangkok in 1960, in order to study the region's major epidemics and their transmission.

In the few years of its existence, this laboratory has already made significant contributions to medical knowledge. Members of its staff have identified the liver-fluke parasite and its life cycle. This parasite, causing a debilitating liver disease, infected 3.5 million villagers, according to a 1964 study, and for centuries has taken a heavy toll in north-east Thailand.

Children are victims

Haemorrhagic fever, a dread blood disease which attacks the skin, the gastro-intestinal tract, and in severe cases causes shock, first broke out in epidemic proportions in the Philippines in 1956. It since has spread to the Asian mainland, affecting thousands of children in Thailand, Malaysia, Viet-Nam, Burma, and India.

The SEATO Laboratory, with the assistance of the Chulalongkorn Medical School and other agencies, has isolated at least one virus and its carrier. Important also are improvements in methods of treatment; patients are recovering far more rapidly than before, and there is a remarkable decline in the mortality rate, from 10 per cent in the 1958 epidemic down to 3.5 per cent in the 1962 Thai outbreak.

TOGETHE

Malaria, still one of the great killers despite intensive mosquito control and eradication campaigns, also is being attacked at the laboratory. Aside from studying the habits of known malaria carriers, mosquito groups that were previously disregarded by medical science now are being tested.

Finding and checking the source of disease is one thing; treating patients already ill on a day-to-day basis is quite another. The SEATO Clinical Research

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Students are pictured here at work in the radio shop during a class at the Cholburi SEATO Skilled Labour training centre, about 60 miles from Bangkok.

Centre was established in Bangkok in 1963 with the aim of improving diagnostic and medical treatment of patients. A 40-bed hospital is part of the laboratory scheme; teachers, technicians, and nurses learn modern hospital techniques, in an excellently equipped five-story building in Bangkok.

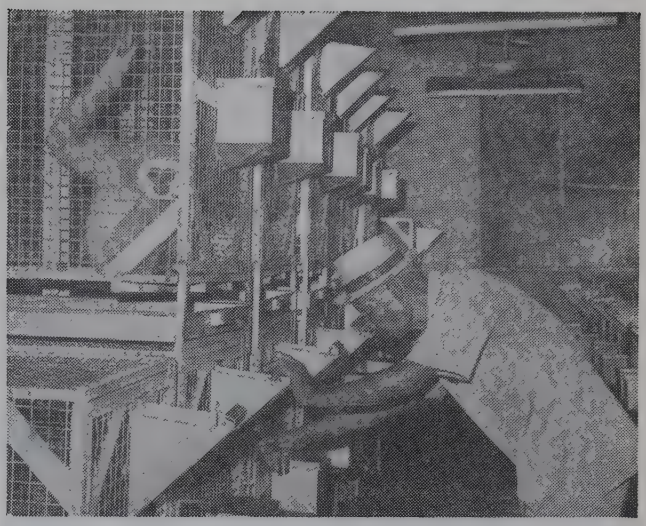
Cholera is one of Asia's oldest enemies, and one of the infection's historic seedbeds is in East Pakistan. In 1960, the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory was opened at Dacca, in the delta of the Ganges, and Brahmaputra Rivers. Research at Dacca analyzes the patient, the pattern of the disease itself, the effectiveness of the vaccine, and seeks to simplify treatment.

Therapeutic progress

Dr. Abram Benenson (since succeeded by Dr. R.A. Phillips) director of the laboratory in Dacca commented: "We have made great advances, at least in the therapy and diagnosis of the disease. We have worked out methods by which we can recognize almost within minutes whether a patient is infected with the organism that causes cholera. We can treat

ESS IS KEY TO SUCCESS

him so that he gets well within a matter of just a few days. We have not answered with certainty how we can keep him from getting sick, but this is the direction in which we are working."



At Phra Buddhabat Hospital, Saraburi, a joint malaria research program is being undertaken by Thai medical authorities and the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory. Shown here are gibbons kept for experimental purposes.

Dr. Benenson modestly did not mention that techniques used in the laboratory have reduced the cholera death rate in the laboratory hospital to less than one per cent.

With its growing industrialization, South-East Asia's needs for skilled labour are urgent. SEATO embarked on an ambitious Skilled Labour Project, which has been operating with efficiency in Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Schools and teacher-training centres have been set up in villages and cities in the three countries, many offering 18-month courses in such fields as machine tools, textile production techniques, electricity, and woodworking. Thousands of young people have become aware that training is being made available, and that life can indeed by changed and improved.

The keystone in SEATO's arch of accomplishment is the projected Asian Institute of Technology which inspired Mr. Rostow's eloquent praise last fall.

The decision to turn the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering into an independent, international graduate school of Asia was made by the SEATO Council of Ministers when they met in June at Canberra, Australia. The feeling both in and out of SEATO is that the school is going so well that it can stand on its own, and that a number of qualified young engineers will be attracted to a non-affiliated school.

STRESSES AND STRAINS

Munir Ahmad, of Pakistan, and Jing-Gwo Kuang, of Taiwan, students at the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering in Bangkok, apply tension to steel wires in preparation for the casting of an experimental pre-stressed concrete beam. The school has students from five Asian countries, and an international faculty.

Plans are being made to expand the student body from its present 110 students to 1200, and to move to a new 400-acre campus on Bangkok outskirts.

The doctorate as well as the master's degree will be offered, and the courses available — now divided into five branches of engineering — hydraulics, public health, soil, structures, and transportation — will take on a wider range, but always stressing the needs and demands of Asian economic and social development.

The dean of the engineering school, Milton E. Bender Jr., who came to Bangkok two years ago from Colorado State University, said of the new plans: "There is an air of excitement and anticipation here. We have had the dream that the graduate school would become a great institute; this dream is now a large step further toward realization."

From its inception September 8, 1959, with 19 students and one major program, hydraulic engineering, the school has made incredible strides in seven years. Its doors are open to all qualified students. Engineers from Malaysia, the Philippines, India, Viet-Nam, Thailand, Taiwan, and Pakistan have completed the rigorous two-year course for a master's degree in engineering.

Its alumni are recognized among the world's best trained; the Council of the Institution of Highway Engineers in London, among others, has decided to waive written examination requirements for the school's graduates if they apply for associate membership.

Because of its faculty's reputation and the high academic standard it has maintained, the school has attracted some of the most important engineering researchers in the world to its many conferences on vital Asian research needs.

The graduate school also realizes that engineers working in South-East Asian communities far from Bangkok and far from the sites of their own national universities, desperately need up-to-date information in their fields. Special lectures and short courses are being given in many provincial areas by prominent authorities under the auspices of the school.

Wide repercussions

The international faculty and students have been producing theses and reports based on laboratory findings and intensive field-work that can and will have region-wide positive repercussions.

With research papers on such urgent problems as how to stop saltwater intrusion into Asian coastal lands and how to build low-cost roads linking rural villages to each other and to major highways, the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering has been building a small part of the economic and social foundation of the new Asia without fanfare or headlines.

And perhaps most important, the school has become a place where young Thais, Pakistanis, Chinese, Filipinos, and many others meet, study, and live together.

"There isn't much that really separates us," said one young Thai student. "When people see an enormous common task in front of them, when they eat, study, and play together, they begin to realize that languages and history don't have to keep them apart. We're only just beginning."

(Reproduced by permission of "Esso Eastern Review.")

Foreign Affairs

RED THREAT IS STILL 'A DAGGER'

THE threat which prompted the formation of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization 13 years ago still exists today in Asia, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos warned, in a message on the eve of the SEATO exercise "Siyasat" on March 7.

The defence exercise was the latest in the continuing series of combined air, sea and land manoeurres designed to improve the coordination and develop common procedures among member nations of SEATO.

In his message, President Marcos said: "SEATO was established for collective defence at the time when international Communism was a clear and present threat to almost every country in Asia. Today, that danger remains poised like a dagger, and so the reason for SEATO's existence remains valid.

"Unsleeping vigilance against the enemies of freedom should be maintained. And this SEATO is doing by conducting military exercises, of which "Siyasat" is the 32nd.

"National or regional security is a prime requisite to any kind of progress in a country or region. The Republic of the Philippines takes pride in co-sponsoring with the United States this exercise and in playing host to the participants."

Participating in the exercise were seven combat battalions and one special forces group from the Philippine Army and three Philippine constabulary companies. The Philippine Navy furnished minesweepers, transport ships, marines and frogmen. The Philippine Air Force contributed planes.

The other SEATO nations assisting in the exercise were. Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Viet-Nam: Peace and Persistence

PRESIDENT Johnson said on March 6 that although the fight in Viet-Nam is difficult, the U.S. will persist on the battlefield and in its pursuit of an honorable settlement.

The President's remarks came in a statement on signing a bill authorizing a $4,548 million supplemental appropriation for the Defence Department.

The Congress, by an overwhelming vote, amended the bill to declare its firm intentions:

1. To provided all necessary support for our fighting men in Viet-Nam;

2. To support the efforts that have been made to prevent the expansion of the war, and to bring the conflict to an end through a negotiated settlement which will preserve the honour of the U.S., protect the vital interests of this country, and allow the people of South Viet-Nam to determine the affairs of the nation in their own way;

3. To support the convening of the nations that participated in the Geneva Conference, or any other meeting of nations similarly involved and interested,

as soon as possible, for the purpose of pursuing the general principles of the Geneva Accords of 1954 and 1962, and for formulating plans for bringing the conflict to an honourable solution.

President Johnson went on to say: "Though the battle has been long and hard, and though our adversary has shown no desire to reduce the level of his aggression and bring the controversy to the negotiating table, we shall persist both on the battlefield, and in our pursuit of an honourable settlement.

"Our course lies between the extremes of provoking a wider war, and yielding to a settlement by terror. It is neither a simple nor an easy course. Yet it offers the hope of lasting peace in South-East Asia. That the vast majority of the Congress approves it is a source of continuing strength to me, and to those associated with me in the conduct of our policy."

The measure, providing additional defence funds for the current fiscal year ending June 30, was overwhelmingly approved by Congress in early March.

AUSTRALIA AND ASIA'S NEIGHBOURLY ROLE

MR. HOLT, the Australian Prime Minister, in a speech on March 10 about Australia's position in the context of its geography and of its alliances, said; "Australia has been accused at various times of going British, or going American; but the truth is, we are going Australian. That is why governments respect us. They want our independent views on common issues and the goals to which we all aspire."

Having rebutted the charge that Australia has no policy of its own, Mr. Holt sketched his own view of its role in the world today. Australia today, he said, was building in the Pacific one of the affluent societies of the world and could play an immensely important role in the region.

Increasingly Australian were finding their thoughts dwelling on the challenges, opportunities and obligations deriving from their proximity to the countries of Asia and the Pacific. "Having no colonial past to embitter our relationships, we could build invaluable bridges of friendship with Asia," he said.

Closer relations

Mr. Holt's words have followed his actions: since he became Prime Minister he has directed much of his time and energy to Asian relations, and so have newspapers and many private associations. Following recent developments in Indonesia, Australians look forward to a freer and closer relationship with this nearest neighbour.

Earlier in January the Director of the Associated Chamber of Manufacturers pleaded that the direction of Australia's energies of all types, political, business and cultural, should be changed from Western Europe to Asia. Twenty years ago this might have seemed airy talk. But now it is becoming accepted as the road to the future.

Habits of thinking die hard, but the emphasis on relations with Asia is only a public recognition of an already accomplished fact. Australia's foreign policy and its military effort are primarily involved in Asia: so is its foreign aid program, and to an increasing extent its business.

Figures covering the past 10 years' of trading show a steady drift from Britain and Western Europe towards Asia. This process may soon be accelerated if Britain joins the European Economic Community within the next few years.

Pioneer students

Political leaders are helping to smooth the path to all sorts of exchanges, including many at cultural level. Perhaps the best pioneers in this type of co-operation are the thousands of Asian students now working in Australia and not only learning a different way of life but teaching Australians their own. It is a two-way process of understanding. (Radio Australia).

PEACE IS THE CRUX OF GUAM COMMUNIQUE

AMERICAN and Vietnamese leaders concluded their conference in Guam on March 21, with a pledge of joint determination on the fighting fronts and a promise "to continue the earnest search for an honourable peace" in Viet-Nam.

"The leaders of North Viet-Nam must recognize the futility of their effort to seize control of South Viet-Nam by force," said a communique.

President Johnson paid tribute during the course of the meeting to the Republic of Viet-Nam's progress toward representative government.

He hailed the agreement on a new constitution as a "move forward toward democracy in the midst of war, and despite the savage opposition of the Viet Cong."

During the talks, President Johnson renewed his pledge that the U.S. will defend South Viet-Nam against Communist aggression until an honourable peace can be negotiated.

Honourable peace

Leaders of both nations emphasized their desire to seek an honourable peace in Viet-Nam. Chief of State Thieu said "the Republic of Viet-Nam spares no efforts to explore all possible avenues which may lead us to a just and honourable peace."

Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky said his country is "ready to go down any avenue of negotiations which holds a promise of bringing an honourable settlement to this awful conflict."

The opening session of the conference centered on the civil pacification program in South Viet-Nam. Mr. Johnson said the Viet Cong are now turning sharply against the revolutionary development program, and that is a tribute to its effectiveness.

But the President also pointed out that Viet-Nam is still a land of war and suffering where the danger of inflation and political conflict lies just beneath the surface. He called on the conferees to make the pacification program even more effective.

At a news conference before he left Guam, Prime Minister Ky said there has been marked progress in the pacification program in the past year. The South Vietnamese army was providing more security and protection to rural areas, and there are "more and better qualified cadres" than a year ago, he said.

On the military effort, Premier Ky said: "The presence of thousands of Americans fighting today in Viet-Nam is something great. They are helping us to build a new nation — helping us to bring social justice to millions of people who for many years have suffered from foreign domination and aggression.

Hanoi cannot win

The Communists are continuing to use the neutral territory of the demilitarized zone and Laos to infiltrate troops into South Viet-Nam, the Premier said. "Hanoi still thinks it can win," he said. "I can assure you they cannot win a military victory now in South Viet-Nam — it is impossible."

Premier Ky said the Viet Cong and units of the North Vietnamese regular army in the South "are on the run and no longer able to carry out sustained large-scale military attacks".

The following is the joint communique summarizing discussions between the leaders of the United States and South Viet-Nam at Guam:

Communique:

The President of the U.S. and the Chief of State and the Prime Minister of Viet-Nam completed their discussions in Guam. These talks have demonstrated again their joint determination with their allies, to defend freedom in South Viet-Nam and at the same time to continue the earnest search for an honourable peace.

President Johnson took this occasion to present to Chairman Thieu, Prime Minister Ky and their party the new leadership of the U.S. Mission in Saigon. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker will take up from Ambassador Lodge the maintenance and

Communique continued...

strengthening of close relations with the government of Viet-Nam.

He will be working with that government in its struggle to preserve the nation's freedom, in its steady progress toward economic and social development, and in the new political chapter now opening of constitutional and representative government under elected leaders.

President Johnson introduced Ambassador Eugene Locke, who will take Ambassador Porter's place as Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission, and he also explained that his special assistant, Mr. Robert Komer, would be in Saigon giving his attention to pacification and revolutionary development matters.

Meeting with their advisors, President Johnson and Chairman Thieu and Prime Minister Ky reviewed the encouraging progress on the various programs of the Vietnamese government which had been discussed at Honolulu early in 1966 and were outlined in the communique of the seven allied nations meeting in Manila last October.

Efforts are futile

Discussions covered the military front, where the initiative lies increasingly with the allied forces and where the leaders of North Viet-Nam must recognize the futility of their effort to seize control of South Viet-Nam by force.

The meeting also reviewed those programs of the Vietnamese government to which the U.S. is providing assistance. They found that, a solid foundation having been laid, the pacification and revolutionary development program was now beginning to show encouraging results, despite Viet Cong efforts to disrupt it by terror and intimidation. They noted the successful maintenance of financial stability while recognizing the need for continued vigilance on this front.

They heard from Dr. Vu Quoc Thuc and Mr. David Lilienthal of the long range economic planning now getting underway. Plans for continued efforts in the fields of national reconciliation and reform of land policies and tenure provisions were described by the Vietnamese leaders.

They also outlined the provisions of the constitution drafted by the Constituent Assembly elected last September 11 and agreed upon by the assembly and approved by the directorate in the last few days. This provides for the principal organs of a representative government and assures to the people civil and economic rights and social justice.

The constitution offers full civil rights to those who respect its provisions and the world tooks forward to the day when the Viet Cong will take advantage of this offer, abandon the course of terror and violence and join in making a free, modern society in South Viet-Nam.

Hamlet elections

It was also announced that elections for a President will be held under the constitution within four to five months and the elections for a legislature shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile, a major forward step will be made toward the restoration of democratic local government when village hamlet elections take place, starting in April.

The numerous and varied efforts made in recent months to bring about a peaceful settlement were reviewed by the heads of both delegations. Thus far, they noted regretfully, North Viet-Nam has failed to respond to all such efforts.

Pursuit of peace

However, Chairman Thieu, Prime Minister Ky and President Johnson reaffirmed their undertaking at Manila and Honolulu and pledged themselves anew to the diligent pursuit of peace. Continuing consultations about the search for peace will be maintained among the nations whose forces are now fighting against aggression in South Viet-Nam.

The Vietnamese and American leaders also took note of the forthcoming meetings in Washington of SEATO on April 18-20 and of the Foreign Ministers of nations having troops in Viet-Nam on April 20-21. The latter will bring together again the governments which met at Manila last October and provide an opportunity for them to review progress and programs in Viet-Nam and consult on future courses of action. (USIS)

Communist aims in Thailand— a warning by Premier

AT a press conference on March 13, Thailand's Prime Minister, Field Marshal Kittikachorn, explained the reasons for a special interview arranged by the Public Relations Department for local and foreign correspondents to meet and question Communist defectors who had "become dupes of the C.T. movement."

The reasons were, he said:

1. "To reveal the extent to which Communist countries, namely, Red China and North Viet-Nam, have plotted to destroy Thailand, the King, the religion and the Thai people with the help of infiltration and subversion.

"It will be seen that, apart from waging a war of vulgar and truthless propaganda against Thailand, the Communists have further committed aggressive acts by smuggling in agents to incite Thais against Thais. Those who were won over to them were next duped into leaving the country for ideological and military training at well-established schools, built for this purpose for almost 10 years.

"These dupes were again sent back to Thailand for the purpose of killing their own countrymen with little support in manpower, finance and arms from Red China and North Viet-Nam.

"The two Communist countries hope to occupy Thailand and destroy the nation itself, the King and the religion, once the Thai people are sufficiently weakened by mutual killing. The Communists aim to enslave the Thai people in the same manner they have done to the people on mainland China, North Viet-Nam and Tibet.

2. "To warn and convince the Thai people that the Communist designs against this country are not limited to verbal threats, but include positive acts to destroy the nation, the people and our time-honoured culture and customs.

"The Communists have been carrying out this plot for almost ten years as previously said. Although present Communist acts are not as destructive as the situation now taking place in Viet-Nam, their effect should be strong enough to wake up the Thai people and make them realize the need to cooperate with the Government in the fight to preserve 'Our being Thai.'

Duty of every Thai

"This fight is no specific duty of any particular section of the Government, but it is the duty of every Thai. Remember that present day Thailand is the last piece of land on which our nations can stand with freedom and the worthy name of being Thai. We are no longer in a position to avoid slavery as we have successfully done in the old days.

"If we, the Thai people, choose to hand over our freedom to the Communists and awaken to that folly too late, then we shall only have ourselves to blame.

3. "To confirm the fact that this Government will fight to defend the Thai nation and people against

Red Threat...

destructive designs from the Communists in every way it can, so as to preserve "the state of being Thai for this nation and its people. As can be seen, officials from all Government departments are now cooperating in the work to protect the people, to arrest and clear Communist terrorists day and night in all sorts of terrain.

"They have sacrificed their personal comforts, and even lives, for their fellow countrymen, as a result of which scores of them have lost their lives. The Government decision to extend military assistance and other forms of support to South Viet-Nam and to provide bases in Thailand for the U.S. Air Force to bomb North Viet-Nam are all measures to confirm the Government's aforesaid intentions. The Thais have the right to defend their own nation; they cannot afford to sit tight and allow other nations to harm them at will."

BRITAIN PINS HOPES ON THE ASIAN BANK

SPEAKING at the inaugural meeting in Tokyo of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank, the British Governor (Mr. Arthur Bottomley) said; "We want to play a very full part in the struggle to raise living standards in Asia. Yet the most important efforts in this direction must come, not from outside Asia, but from within

"We for our part," added the British Governor, "are prepared to help Asians to reach Asian solutions to Asian problems. It is for this reason that we welcome most heartily the effort of Asians to promote growth and economic advancement through their own organizations for regional cooperation.

"We have great hopes," said Mr. Bottomley "that the Bank will be a most powerful influence in stimulating economic and social development in Asia. Looked at even from a more selfish point of view, we believe it to be greatly to our advantage that the countries of South and East Asia should develop and should expand their external trade. The advantages we seek are those which will flow from the prosperity of all the Bank's members, not from the narrow promotion of our own interests.

"Capital is an essential ingredient of the process which will eventually raise the standard of living of the peoples of Asia to the high level which they have a right to expect.

Contributing in many ways

"The success of the Bank will therefore depend ultimately upon its ability to attract additional investment capital which, in turn, will depend upon the wisdom and skill with which it invests its immediate available funds. It will also depend on the attraction of competent staff, and if we can help in this we shall be very pleased.

"Britain is already contributing in many ways to help Asian countries to achieve rapid economic development. For example, Government financial aid in recent years to Asian countries has totalled about £400 million — nearly £100 million in the last two years.

Interest free aid

"Much of this is now interest free and with a long grace period on capital repayments. In addition British private investment has in recent years contributed many millions of pounds to Asian countries' development. Our contributions in the technical assistance field, under the Colombo Plan, are well known.

"My own post of Minister of Overseas Development is, so far as I know, the only Cabinet post in any of the developed countries solely concerned with the economic progress of the developing countries. Its existence, and that of my Ministry, provide a clear indication of the great importance which the British Government attaches to raising the standards of living of the developing countries."

THANAT KHOMAN: FAITH MUST BE MUTUAL

AT a luncheon on March 13 at Bangkok's Royal Hotel in honour of visiting American publishers and editors, the Thai Foreign Minister, Mr. Thanat Khoman, said the Thais had great faith in the Americans and only hoped this could be matched by the faith Americans had in themselves.

He said: "If you were to follow the old practices of pre-World War II days, we would have let a small nation, like South Viet-Nam, become a victim of aggression.....

"Because we don't believe in those obsolete concepts, your country and mine and some of our friends have joined together in trying to help a small country struggle to remain free and preserve the right to choose its own destiny. This is the meaning of our undertaking today.

Serious risks

"This is why a small nation like Thailand, which does not wish to die or follow the fate that the Communists have inflicted upon South Viet-Nam, has taken its courage in both hands and cooperated with a world power like the United States to stem the tide of Communist aggression in Asia."

"We are running serious risks, especially for a small country. We are braving the wrath of millions of Communists. We are also the object of misunderstanding elsewhere, in Europe, even in your own country, and also in Asia, that we have alienated our sovercignty and independence by allowing the U.S. use of military installations and facilities in Thailand.

"We are aware of this. But the risks, however serious they may be, are certainly less, in our estimation, than the risk of being obliterated from the map of free nations.

"We know that if we were to allow small nations like South Viet-Nam to be conquered by the Communists or other predatory nations the turn of Thailand will also come.

"Then, it may be, the nations of America, Europe, Africa and Asia may say: 'Let Thailand die,' let us have a few more spells of peace, in the same way as Austria and Czechoslovakia were allowed to die just a few years before the Second World War.

"But now, the lesson should have been learned. Such a fate should not be allowed to be repeated in Asia."

"We want to live in a new era, with no Western or Communist colonialism. We want to live as free men working together with our friends and neighbours and with nations far away to enrich our lives and bring betterment to our peoples."

He struck out at uncertainty in the U.S. over Viet-Nam, saying: "From the reports I have been reading from the U.S., I learn that you have been going through your own sort of cultural revolution. You are being torn by convulsions as to whether what you have been doing for the past two years or so is the best course to follow.

He added: "This is a rather important time. Your country, the United States, and Thailand have been brought by circumstances, to join in one of the most important undertakings of history, mainly the undertaking to preserve and maintain freedom and

to give assurance to people around the world, especially small nations, that they have the right to live and lead a free existence."

"For us to see a great, friendly nation being the prey of doubts and suspicions, and of the lack of faith, is something pathetic. However, we would never dare to give a sermon to a great nation like the U.S."

"But let me say this to you who have come from afar: you have to tell your own people that other people around the earth still have faith in you, even though you may not have as much faith in yourself, as you have been showing during the past few months.

"This year is perhaps, the most crucial year, not in terms of military threat or danger, not in terms of a threat of a new world war, but it will be a crucial year in terms of propaganda warfare. The other side has been stepping up its campaign to sow the seed of suspicion and doubt in your mind and in our minds."

47,300 Asian dentists get together

THE 4300 dentists of Australia and New Zealand will join the Asian Pacific Dental Federation, giving the Federation a total membership of 47,300.

Announcing this, the Federation president of the Australian Dental Association, Mr. W. A. Grainger, said the Australian Government had brought Asian Pacific Dental Federation representatives to Australia who had worked out with Australian and New Zealand representatives a constitution acceptable to all countries.

Member countries of the Federation are Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Korea, South Viet-Nam, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore — and now Australia and New Zealand.

CENTO PUTS EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION (CENTO) WHICH RECENTLY MET IN WASHINGTON.

THE ROLE of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in the economic development of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey was the central theme of the deliberations of CENTO's Economic Committee at its annual meeting. The Committee assessed the momentum already achieved in this direction and opened the way to initiatives in the field of industrial development in the CENTO region.

In response to an initiative of the Turkish delegation the Committee agreed that an *ad hoc* working group be formed to identify those fields of industrial development which would be of substantial economic benefit to the regional countries and to make recommendations for the conduct of feasibility studies of scientific projects and other activities under CENTO auspices in these fields.

Earlier, the Committee had noted with appreciation the statement of Mr. William S. Gaud, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, at the opening meeting.

The Committee invited the attention of the regional member Governments particularly to Mr. Gaud's remarks concerning initiatives by the regional members and his assurance that the United States would be glad to give such help as it could to new regional projects to which member countries give high priority as a part of their own development plans.

The Committee also welcomed the statement by the leader of the United Kingdom's delegation that, despite economic difficulties, the amount of his Government's annual contribution to the economic activities of CENTO would not be reduced.

The Committee also noted that CENTO projects were making definite contributions in such fields as public health, agriculture, science and education. For example, an emergency working party on cholera was

formed following an epidemic in the region and as a result of its recommendations stockpiles of anti-cholera supplies and equipment were being built up and a regional health adviser provided. Pakistan and Iran offered vaccines as needed, and provided special training in anti-cholera techniques to doctors of the region.

The Committee directed its sub-committee on agriculture to continue to concern itself with the development of the Van-Rezaiyeh area in eastern Turkey and north-western Iran, and to identify other areas where similar developmental projects could be sponsored by CENTO. The sub-committee was also instructed to pursue further initiatives in the marketing and processing of agricultural products, including livestock.

Working group

Recognizing the vital importance of developing the water resources of the regional countries, the Committee approved the establishment of a working group on hydrology and water resources development with terms of reference embracing water power, irrigation of agricultural lands and supplies for human consumption and industrial use.

To the field of science and education, the Committee welcomed the establishment of the new Multilateral Scientific Fund, which is to be administered by the CENTO Scientrific Coordinating Board, with its headquarters in Tehran.

Fund more flexible

The Committee also reviewed the work of CENTO's own technical assistance program under the Multilateral Technical Cooperation Fund. This Fund is designed to make use of the rapidly growing resources of technical expertise to be found in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Currently, funds contributed annually by the five countries are used to offer scholarships in the region's own technical colleges and universities, to make the services of outstanding technical experts of one regional country available to the other two, and in other ways.

In a move to enhance the effectiveness of this program, the Committee approved a revision of the Fund's terms of reference designed to make it even more flexible and responsive to the needs of the three regional countries.

'Thailand makes good progress' —Hasluck

PROGRESS being achieved by Thailand has been commended by the Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Hasluck.

In his first review recently of international affairs to the 1967 Parliament, Mr. Hasluck told the House of Representatives in Canberra that Thailand was continuing to make steady progress, economically and in other ways.

"Its Government," he said, "is playing a constructive part in regional affairs." Mr. Hasluck spoke of the subversive and terrorist activity taking place in north-east Thailand. He said that this was linked with Hanoi and Peking, from which agents had returned to Thailand trained and equipped to conduct subversion and terrorism against the Government and people of Thailand. "The situation is not out of control, but the threat has to be taken seriously," he said.

Referring to the Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC), Mr. Hasluck said it was continuing to acquire strength and vitality. He said Australia was represented at the regular meetings of ambassadors of member countries held in Bangkok and he himself expected to attend the Ministerial meeting of ASPAC later this year.

Sustained effort

Discussing Viet-Nam, Mr. Hasluck said things were getting better but the allies must be prepared for a sustained effort over a period of time and against continued strong aggression. He said there had been considerable speculation whether the North Vietnamese leaders may have modified, or may be ready to modify, their previously unyielding opposition to a negotiated settlement.

"The Australian Government has given the closest attention to the statements and reports on which this

speculation has been based," he said. "It has also been in close touch with the various Governments concerned. We have not been able to find clear evidence of a significant change in the North Vietnamese attitude to a negotiated settlement. Such movement as there may have been — and any evidence of forward movement, however slight, is welcome — consists rather in a possible shift of emphasis concerning the conditions in which exploratory discussions might be opened."

Procedures for a negotiated peace must not be such as to give a military advantage to the Vietnamese Communists, Mr. Hasluck emphasised. "The terms of a settlement must not be such as would hand South Viet-Nam over to Communist rule, or prevent the people of South Viet-Nam from controlling their own destinies by means of their own choosing."

Mr. Hasluck said regional cooperation in the Asian region was going ahead through ECAFE and other organizations.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Gough Whitlam said the need for a strong and continuing American presence in Asia was supported by both the Government and Opposition parties.

Mr. Whitlam said he believed that Australia's true interest lay immediately in stopping the war in Viet-Nam. With a cease-fire a negotiated settlement could be achieved and under cover of this Viet-Nam could progress towards political, economic and social reform. (AIS)

French radar units for Australia

TWO French radar units for tracking space missiles will be installed at the Woomera missile centre in Australia.

The weapon Research Establishment of Salisbury, South Australia, has asked the Compagnie Francaise Thomson Houston Hotchkiss-Brandt to supply it with two "Adour" radar units and to integrate them into its tracking system.

These two radar units will be used for the launching tests of the "Europa" and Eldo/Cecles satellites. Australia is offering the use of its base at Woomera for these tests.

This is the first time that the French electronic industry has installed equipment of this type in Australia.

In the face of keen international bidding, the final choice was made on the basis of the quality and reputation of the many space tracking radar units already in use in French missile bases, especially the "Aquitaine" unit.

Vargas visits Viet-Nam

SEATO Secretary-General Jesus M. Vargas spent five days in South Viet-Nam, from March 14 to 19, at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government.

He conferred with government leaders of South Viet-Nam and civil and military authorities of the SEATO nations participating in the inter-allied effort there. He also visited SEATO nations' field operations where possible.

One of these was the First Philippine Civic Action Group (Philcag) with headquarters in Tay Ninh province. The Philcag contingent, numbering some 2,000 men and officers, is made up of engineering construction, medical, dental and community development teams.

The major undertaking is the Thanh Dien Resettlement Project. This involves the opening of a forested area of some 4,500 hectares for agricultural development.

Resettlement area

The Thanh Dien forest was a Viet Cong stronghold for 20 years from which it controlled and harassed the surrounding area.

The Philcag, in the space of some six months, has cleared a one-kilometer square area for a model hamlet and is now clearing agricultural ground. The site is intended as a resettlement area for one to two thousand refugee families.

The contingent has constructed or repaired some 75 kilometers of roads, built bridges, constructed school houses and repaired others. In addition, its mobile medical and dental teams go from village to village treating the people of the area. These teams, within six months, have ministered to 142,000 people in four provinces in their areas of operations.

The base camp from which Philcag operates, with its buildings and roads, will be left for use as a model village when the operation is completed.

'OPERATION SIYASAT' —SEATO FORCES SHOW THEIR METTLE

MORE than 20,000 men, 30 warships and 100 aircraft from six of the eight SEATO member nations converged upon the Philippines recently to participate in 'Exercise Siyasat' — a military operation combining five aspects of defensive warfare.

The two-week long exercise, which ended on March 22 afforded valuable experience to participating forces in methods of close liaison during combined land sea and air operations designed to counter the movements of insurgent forces. Many valuable lessons were learned which are now being equated and assessed by military experts and observers.

It was the first exercise of its kind and included a command post operation, field manoeuvres, air defence, air patrolling and anti-submarine warfare. The exercise director was Major General Segundo P. Velasco of the Philippines.

At the opening of the exercise the Philippines Foreign Secretary Narciso Ramos praised SEATO as a deterrent to Chinese Communist expansion in Asia.

SEATO, he said, had served to maintain the balance of forces in South-East Asia. This balance had "kept the potential aggressor at bay."

"We are well aware," added Ramos, "of the slow, painful progress of detente between East and West and of the accompanying all toogradual thaw in the Soviet cold war.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

SIYASAT in pictures

Four jet fighter interceptor pilots "shot down" by superier aggressor aircraft successfully completed a four-day escape and evasion course through "hostile" territory and were picked up by a PAF U-17 light plane from an improvised airstrip in Bitulok, Nueva Ecija. Photo shows the pilots boarding a rescue aircraft with its engine still running.

Agriculture Under-Secretary Isoceles Pascual (left) representing Vice-President Fernando Lopez views the weapons and equipment of a frogman who parachuted from a Philippines Air Force C-47 plane during the SEATO 'Exercise Siyasat.'

Capt. Isidro Avanzado, Siyasat Electronics Warfare Officer is pictured left, above, reading a "Flash" report of on intelligence interrogation from a communications team in Sierra Madre. The entire communications area was declared on "Red Alert" and guards in checkpoints and walking posts were doubled.

Alert security elements of the Siyasat Communica tions Centre are pictured below jumping to action fron their encampment to repel an aggressor attempt to blow up communications installations.

Captured in the mountain fastnesses of Sierra Madre insurgent elements kill time in a makeshift shelter Under guestioning they revealed plans for a massive airdrop of arms, equipment, and supplies for use of local subversive elements.

After the field interrogation, the "prisoners" were rushed to higher headquarters for further grilling.

Elements of the Philippine Navy marine raider unit and Underwater Operations Unit (frogmen) playing the role of "aggressors" are pictured below staging a para-drop over Manila Bay.

(FROM PAGE 21 . . .)

"We are also well aware that the current convulsions tearing Communist China apart could very well signal the weakening of the capacity of that bellicose country to do much military mischief at the moment."

But history showed, said Ramos, that a nation like China would try to dominate the region, and even seek to dominate the world, unless resisted and contained by defensive counter forces.

This balance of forces was largely responsible for the uneasy peace that obtained today, Ramos added.

The simulated situation drawn up for the exercise posed three main tasks for SEATO forces:

(1) To overcome submarine opposition from enemy forces attempting to land in certain areas;

(2) To prevent enemy aircraft from reaching certain strategic objectives;

(3) To eliminate the danger to allied military bases posed by insurgents and infiltrators.

Nations participating in the exercise were Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Wing tip tangle, then happy landings

Two Filipino parachutists taking part in SEATO's recent "Exercise Siyasat" probably owe their lives to the pilot of a Philippines Air Force plane during parachute manoeuvres near Manila.

The parachutes of the two Filipinos became entangled on the wing tip of the C-47 transport. The pilot, seeing their plight, gently rocked the aircraft, which eventually had the effect of dislodging the parachutes, enabling the two Filipinos to float safely to earth.

EXERCISE DIRECTOR

Major General Segundo P. Velasco, AFP Vice Chief of Staff, and the Exercise Director in command of all SEATO forces committed to Exercise Siyasat is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and was inducted in the USAFFE before the outbreak of the last war.

He fought in Bataan and later served in the resistance movement in Northern Luzon until liberation in 1945.

After the war, he participated in the Huk campaign and distinguished himself as operations chief of the first Military Area in 1954. He was acting commander of the Jolo Task Force which captured the notorious Muslim outlaw, Kamlon, in 1955.

General Velasco has demonstrated exceptional leadership in all his assignments in command and in staff positions. He served as operation officer and later as intelligence chief in the accounting of Huk Supremo Luis Taruc who gave himself up after a long chase.

He is the recipient of a series of commendations, awards and decorations.

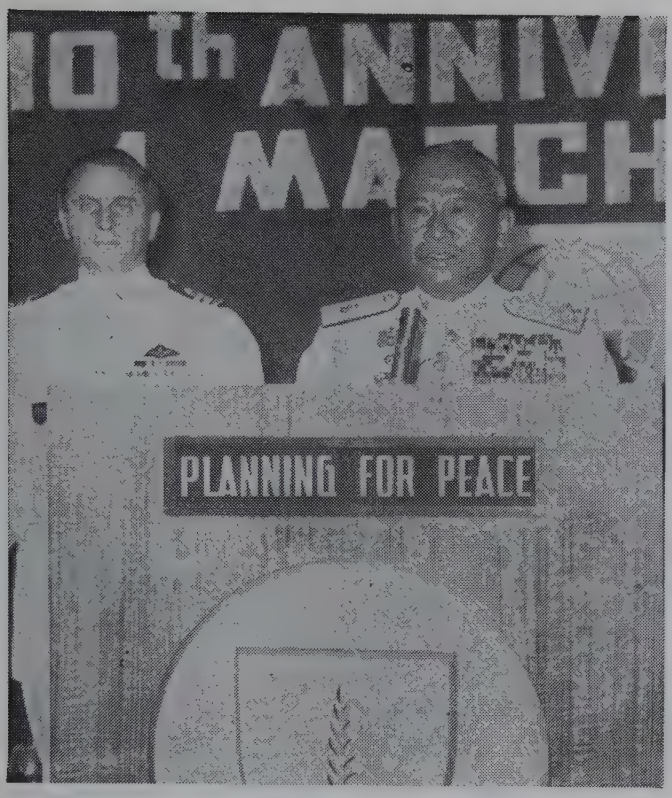
SEATO finances 'Siyasat' road

SEATO nations are contributing $50,000 towards the cost of a road-building project in Central Luzon, the Philippines, as the civic action element of SEATO "Exercise Siyasat".

The SEATO contribution will provide bridge-building materials and petrol, oil and lubricants needed for the construction and improvement of the Balivag-Bahay Pare-San Luis-Santo Domingo road.

The total is made up of a $15,000 contribution from SEATO funds — $10,000 of which has already been handed over by SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas to the Philippine Ambassador in Bangkok, Mr. Mauro Calingo — and direct contributions amounting to $35,000 from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

Remaining costs of the project, $168,000 — will be met by the Philippines Government. The road project is scheduled to be completed by June 30.



Thailand's Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn, is pictured above offering a toast to the King of Thailand at a reception at SEATO Headquarters on March 1, to mark the 10th Anniversary of the SEATO Military Planning Office. The reception, held by the Chief of the Office, Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong, was attended by more than 200 guests.

SEATO troops ambush Huk leader and aides

PHILIPPINE troops participating in "Exercise Siyasat" suddenly found themselves confronted by a real-live combat operation after being alerted to the presence of Huks in a village 60 miles north of Manila.

The result: they laid an ambush and seized without resistance 34-year-old Idominador Garcia, marked No. 5 in the Huk leadership. He emerged from a hut in the village of Cacutud after troops and police had surrounded it.

The real thing

Captured with him were his aide, Estahin Garcia aged 23, and two Huk "Amazons", Terresita Sanchez (18), and Passion Garcia (28). Arms and ammunition were also seized.

Garcia carried a price of $7,250 on his head for his capture dead or alive.

Commented a military spokeman: "The war games script called for the troops to engage the 'dissidents'. But it turned out to be the real thing."

It was the second time Filipino forces paticipating in the exercise came up against renegades. A Navy patrol captured the crew of a boat loaded with smuggled cigarettes while on manoeuvres.

M.P.O. MARKS 10th BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

THE SEATO Military Planning Office was ten years old on March 1. It was two years after SEATO Military Advisers and military planners of member nations first staged planning conferences and exercises in various parts of the Treaty Area, that a permanent office was established at SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok on March 1, 1957. Brigadier General (later General) Alfredo M. Santos of the Philippines was its first Chief.

The setting up of a centralized, permanent planning establishment was seen as a prime requirement for the coordination of the forces of the member nations in defence against possible armed aggression.

From small beginnings, the Military Planning office has evolved as a compact organization within SEATO, reflecting in its activities the complex requirements of modern armed forces and all aspects of combined action.

Under the direction of its Chief, Major General Abhichart Dhiradhamrong of Thailand, officers contributed by the member nations are preparing and updating plans to meet all foreseeable situations in which member nations would be required to give each

M.P.O. Birthday...

other military assistance in the event of Communist aggression in the Treaty Area.

Specific forces are designated in these plans for the roles they would take in the event of an emergency.

Thirty-one exercises of various types have been held since 1956 to test the effectiveness of the defence plans, and to give the forces of member nations experience in working together. Latest was the combined exercise, "Siyasat", held in the Philippines last month.

Specialist conferences on specific planning subjects are held frequently by the Military Planning Office. These include mapping, logistics, military medicine, communications-electronics, intelligence, meteorology, and movements.

Regular meetings

The SEATO Military Advisers — high-ranking officers of the armed forces of the member nations — meet twice a year to discuss the military situation in the Treaty Area.

They review the work of the Military Planning Office, consider all existing defence plans, and approve future programs of work.

Each Military Adviser stations in Bangkok an officer of colonel or equivalent rank, who together constitute the Military Advisers' Representatives Committee. They constitute a consultative and reviewing body for the Military Planning Office.

Four current Military Advisers have had an intimate connection with the work of the Military Planning Office. Lt. Gen. Sir John Wilton (Australia) and Lt. Gen. L.W. Thornton (New Zealand) have both held the appointments of Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office.

Rear Admiral S.M. Ahsan, recently designated as Military Adviser for Pakistan, was successively Deputy Chief and Chief of the Office, and General Victor M. Osias, who has recently become Military Adviser for the Philippines was Deputy Chief before the present incumbent, Brigadier General William J. Meng, of the United States.

N.Z. PLEDGES MORE AID TO S. VIET-NAM

NEW ZEALAND has announced an increase in its military and medical aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam.

Prime Minister Keith Holyoake reported on March 8 that the military force would be increased to 360 men from 150 and that the government would send an additional 16-man medical team.

Mr. Holyoake said: "We could not escape the conclusion that, in the light of this country's obligations under the Manila Treaty (South-East Asia Treaty Organization), and consistent with our firm adherence to the principles of collective defence and our support for the rights of small nations, a further effort by New Zealand was called for".

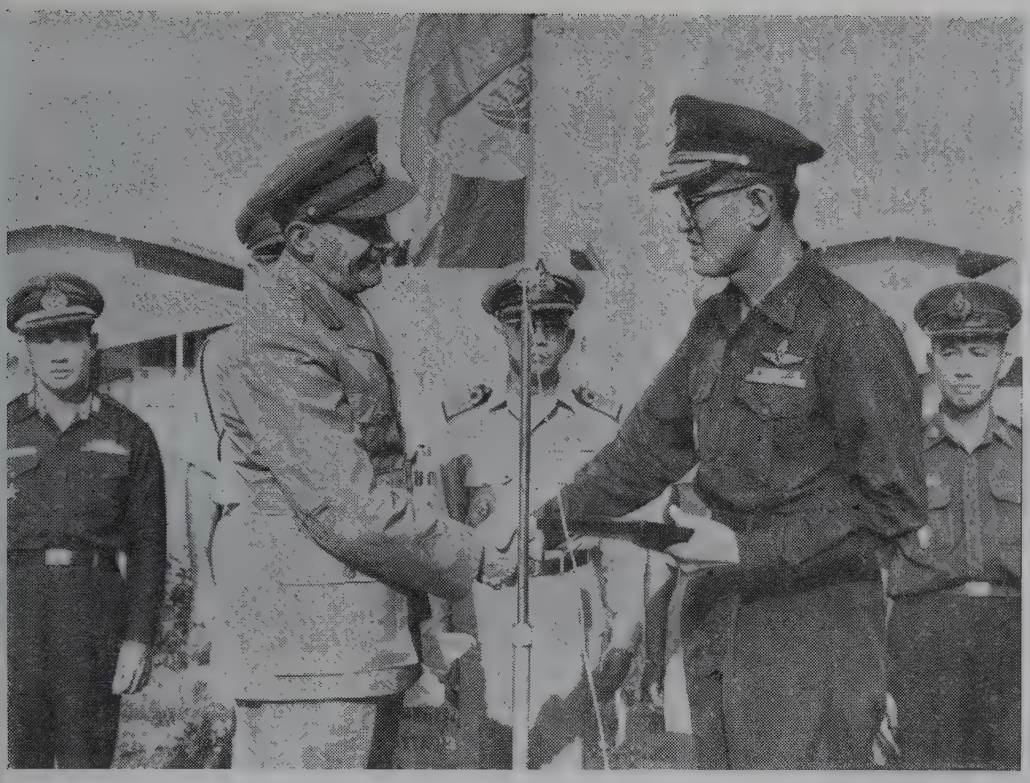
The Prime Minister added that, although his government remained convinced that the problems of Viet-Nam could not be solved by military means alone, "the fact remains the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong show no evidence that they are prepared to abandon their aggression and seek a genuine peaceful settlement."

Need for more forces

"Until that time," he said, "we have a duty to help the people of South Viet-Nam preserve their right to independence. The Government is fully aware of the limitation of New Zealand's military capacity, but is convinced that within those limits New Zealand's obligations and interests require that we do what we can in the collective effort.

"Now that the focus of military activity in Viet-Nam is beginning to turn to operations designed not only to clear but also to hold the ground that has been won, there is a need for more forces, especially infantry. The government has no doubt, therefore, that these additional New Zealand forces will make a valuable contribution."

Mr. Holyoake said that the additional troops — an infantry company — would be drawn from personnel in Malaysia and New Zealand and attached to the Australian task force in Viet-Nam, as are the other New Zealand troops already there.



Friendship plaque for MTTS

Brigadier H.L. Martins, Director of the RAACEME has been visiting Thailand to study the operation and needs of two Thai-Australian projects — the Vehicle Rebuild Workshop at Rangsit and the MTTS.

In picture, Brig. Martins (left) shakes hands with Air Vice Marshal Chamras Vinagupta, Commandant of the school, to whom he presented a plaque as a token of Thai-Australian cooperation and friendship.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

The United States remains ready to withdraw its forces from Viet-Nam within six months after violence subsides.

Asked if there were any change in the U.S. position as stated along with that of six other nations in the October 25 Manila Conference Communique, a State Department spokesman said on March 6: "There has been no change. That still stands." (USIS)

● One of the largest civic aid projects undertaken by Australian troops in South Viet-Nam is a high school library which was officially opened on March 9 at Vung Tau in Phuoc Tuy province.

The library which has cost more than $6,000 was built under the supervision of an Australian construction firm based at Vung Tau. Money for the project was provided by the Australian Government.

A concrete building which can accommodate 150 students was officially opened by Air Commodore J. Darling, the Deputy Commander of the Australian Force in Viet-Nam.

The principal of Vung Tau high school told the 1,000 students and guests present at the opening that the Australian contribution to the school was like giving food to a starving man. He said the library was desperately needed and greatly appreciated. (R.A.)

● The first Australian warship to go on operational duty in Viet-Nam waters, the guided missile destroyer Hobart, sailed from Sydney last month. She will be attached to the U.S. 7th Fleet.

The Australian Minister for the Navy, Mr. Chipp, said the Hobart will be on coastal patrol intercepting supply vessels going south from North Viet-Nam. The destroyer will be away from Australian for about nine months. (R.A.)

● The New Zealand Red Cross Society will send a three-man welfare team to the Republic of Viet-Nam.

M.C. Ashdown, the national secretary, said planning would begin immediately to send the team in a few months to Bin Dinh, in the region of Qui Nhon, where the New Zealand surgical team already is at work. A national appeal for funds will help provide $22,000 a year to keep the Red Cross team in the field, but most of the money will come from the society's own resources.

Mr. Ashdown said the team, which will include a registered nurse, will be assigned to one of the relief camps where it will train three Vietnamese.

GRADUATION DAY: DEGREES FOR 25 ENGINEERS

DR. PUEY UNGPHAKORN, Governor of the Bank of Thailand, presided at the seventh graduation ceremony of the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering on March 23 at which 25 graduates received their masters degree in engineering

Of the 25 to receive their diplomas 15 were from Thailand, three from Pakistan, five from the Philippines and two from Taiwan. Eleven of these graduates specialized in hydraulics, seven in transportation, six in structural and one in public health engineering.

Addressing the graduates, SEATO Secretary General, Lieut. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas said it was a moment of rejoicing for another international batch of graduates who had successfully completed the requirements of higher engineering studies prescribed by the school.

It was also an episodic juncture, for the school was soon to acquire a new identity to perform an even greater role as a fully representative Asian Institute of Technology.

Nit Jittasatra, one of the 15 Thai students who graduated last month from the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering, shown receiving his diploma and congratulations from Dr. Puey Ungphakorn, Governor of the Bank of Thailand.

Dr. Puey is chairman of the interim board of trustees of the Asian Institute of Technology, which will supersede the SEATO Graduate School this year.

"Those graduating today could, therefore, be regarded as forming the link between the old school and the evolving challenge of the new Institute," said Gen. Vargas.

The future of the school was undoubtedly bright, he added. In the next five years or so, it would come into its own as an independent regional institution through the vision and guidance of an international board of trustees, whose initial membership had already been chosen wisely.

"Needless to say, the South-East Asia Treaty Organization will continue to support the school in the interim period and plans have been drawn, and indeed already announced, to this effect.

"The new site of the school," Gen. Vargas continued, "has been selected and there is ample evidence to justify the vision that a visit to the school five years from now would involve touring a unique institution of higher learning, with a much larger international

faculty as well as student population, modern buildings, laboratories, and all other facilities of a first class institution."

The bright future of the school was the accomplishment of those who had striven to make it the distinguished institution that it was today, and who had the imagination to plan the kind of future which was now assured, Gen. Vargas added.

Its Board of Management, its faculty and administrative staff, its alumni and graduates, its students since the founding of the School in 1959 — all deserved to be congratulated.

"We at SEATO feel an inward pride that what was started quite modestly in the beginning as an organization-sponsored project has merited wide international recognition and come to a stage in development where it is now ready to assume a much bigger role," the Secretary-General added.

'What was started quite modestly as an organization-sponsored project has merited wide recognition and come to a stage in development where it is now ready to assume a much bigger role'

Gen. Vargas went on to pay tribute to Dr. Milton E. Bender, Dean of the school and to Dr. Puey Ungphakorn, who has been elected Chairman of the international Board of Trustees of the new institute.

To the graduates themselves Gen. Vargas had this to say: "My advice to you is that, whatever happens, never let go of the values and sense of responsibility which make men truly great."

'FEED-BACK' ROLE FOR A.I.T.

A "think-factory" for one-third of the world's peoples, the Asian Institute of Technology, will begin to rise on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand late in 1968.

"This will be the elite institution of South-East Asia, always looking fifty years ahead," said Dr. Milton E. Bender, President of the institute, who has just returned to Bangkok from a round-the-world trip to explain its purposes to Government officials and academic authorities in five countries.

His discussions, Dr. Bender said, left no question that the $22.4 million needed to provide a new campus for a minimum of 300 students by 1970 would be available.

"We expect that the institute will be formally constituted in Thai law in the middle of this year and that work will start on the site a few months later," Dr. Bender continued. "Construction of the buildings should begin in November, 1968, and by June 1970, the campus will be ready for occupation."

Recognizing that more universities in South-East Asia will be starting master degree programs in techno-

Pictured left is an artists impression of the proposed Asian Institute of Technology which later this year is to supersede the present SEATO Graduate School of Engineering.

logical subjects in the coming years, the institute will offer what Dr. Bender describes as "a very elite" master's program, and will cover "rare" subjects in which advanced degree programs could not be afforded in every country. Great attention will be given to courses at doctorate level.

"We want to maintain the closest possible relations with all universities in the area," Dr. Bender said. "We want these universities to regard the Asian Institute of Technology as an extension of their own activities. It cannot, in any sense compete with them for students, for in an area with one-third of the world's people, our planned enrolment of 1,200 graduates will only skim the surface in the years to come."

Where Dr. Bender sees one of the chief benefits of the institute is in its plan to offer opportunities for study by faculty on leave from universities in the area."

Stimulating research

"We hope to have up to 100 university staff with us at any given time," he stated. "Our courses will provide a feed-back into the universities. They will offer constructive contact between academics, stimulate research, and promote new ideas that professors and lecturers will carry back to their own faculties."

The institute will also serve the engineering profession by providing diploma and short-term courses for practising engineers.

"We aim to keep engineers abreast of technological developments, and their application to the needs of the region," Dr. Bender continued. "Up to 400 engineers may eventually be enrolled in the diploma program, in addition to 800 graduates taking master's and doctor's degree courses."

A computer centre

The institute would serve the universities and the engineering profession in other ways, he said. As the major research centre of the region, it would have an outstanding library and a computer centre to supply the needs of other institutions as well as its own.

It could be expected to pioneer the development of laboratory equipment made from local materials with local manpower for use by engineering and scientific schools throughout the region.

"It will be an ideal site for regional technical conferences," he added.

Dean Bender is pictured Above receiving a doctorate degree in engineering from H.M. King Bhumibol of Thailand at a special ceremony presided over by Their Majesties last month to mark the 50th anniversary of Chulalongkorn University.

●

Dr. Bender is confident that the institute will have the necessary "pulling power" to attract graduate students of high calibre.

"We have seen," he said, "how the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering, from which the institute will grow, has established with a limited enrolment a high reputation as a place of advanced training in engineering.

Graduates do well

"In Thailand, where we receive applications from a very high proporation of qualified graduates, almost all of those approved for admission actually enrol. The same is true of the Philippines, where the school is also well known. From Pakistan we have had a smaller proportion of actual enrolments, but the school's graduates there are doing well, many of them in highly-paid consultant positions.

" The Asian Institute of Technology, as a focal point for education and research in all branches of engineering and the sciences, will be a very tempting choice for the bright graduates who are debating with themselves whether to further their studies in Europe, America, or in the area where their future career lies."

YOUTH..

..AND ITS ROLE IN ASIA TODAY

Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of Education of the Philippines, and President of the University of The Philippines, is pictured here addressing delegates at the recent SEATO seminar on Youth held in Manila.

A SEATO seminar on "Youth's Response to Challenges in Asia" was held in Manila from February 13 to 17. It was attended by many scientists, educators, student leaders and representatives of youth bodies from member countries of the Organization as well as others.

The seminar pointed a unique opportunity for discussing a wide range of problems facing the youth of Asia today and in the future.

Representing SEATO Headquarters at the seminar were Mr. M.A.K. Chandry, Director of Cultural and Economic Affairs, Col. Jose Reyna, Executive Asistant to the Secretary-General, Miss Maeve Fort, Conference Officer and Miss Subijja Sonakul, Cultural Officer.

In his opening speech to delegates and observers Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, Philippines Secretary of Education and President of the University of the Philippines, said that the direction in which everyone wanted Asia to go was now starting to be defined by the youth of today.

"Asia's tomorrow belongs to its youth with its sovereign freedom and its responsibilities; its opportunities and its benefits; its own challenges and the leadership which these challenges will call forth. It is all yours. And we who have with anxiety waited for this future and have played our various roles in its shaping are happy to bequeath it to you as a legacy" Dr. Romulo said.

The logic of contemporary nationalism partly derived for its premises on the stand that past Asian leadership had assumed. The challenge that now had to be confronted in the Asian continent was more urgent manifestations of crises previous leaders faced.

"Basic to this is economic stability. We are faced not merely with the problem of present poverty but with urgency of how, with a fast growing population, we can cope with the food supply in the future. This means the necessity of at once conserving the patrimony of our national societies for our peoples and, at the same time, developing their productivity to the maximum." Planning was needed, said Dr. Romulo, to prevent economic dispar ities. And it should be this generation who must urge the planning of society by influencing politics, attitudes, and the factors of production.

Secondly, and inextricably bound up with this, the present generation faced the challenge of change. What we have to change is not merely leadership. Time has a way of making leaders inactive after a few decades. But what is more important is that we be able to affect the process of change itself in the direction of universal values. There is no doubt that *status quo* is always a foe, but it should equally be clear to us what we are trying to change and why.

Discussing a point on the agenda are senior Thai delegate (left) Dr. Rawi Bhavilai, and junior delegate Mr. Assanee Pachinburavan.

"There must be no inhibition among you to experiment, to test the validity of things and exhaust their possibilities for human use."

Thirdly, and this was still significantly connected with the last two, was the challenge of freedom.

With so much accomplished by science and intelligence and imagination in the 20th century, it should follow said Dr. Romulo, that man should enjoy greater freedom than his brothers in the past. He should not merely be unimposed upon; he should have unlimited liberty to create and to modify what impedes his progressive development.

"The question for our times goes beyond that of politics; more precisely, it is beyond the issue of colonialism or imperialism.

"The question, rather, is, after political sovereignty has been achieved by the nation whether man is still free within the context of his native society."

Asia must not merely be free from the political dictation and influence of the West; its peoples too had to have freedom within the independent status of their native communities.

Freedom was positive; it could not therefore accept on its premise the impulse of hate. To endure it must be universal and must be founded on the respect of the rights and dignity of every man, the principle that all nations must work together and cooperate and not divide themselves or each other."

Former Asian leaders, Dr. Romulo added, were definitely of a different generation. They lived and fought for human dignity in their own times, and they also made it possible for contemporary Asian nationalism to be a present fact.

"But there is a relevance in continuing a dialogue with their own position and ideas; in examining their universal significance and in profiting from the wisdom

of their own vision and ideas. It is thus that you can direct your youthful energies to constructive avenues for your respective national societies.

"As you discuss the challenges that face the youth of Asia today, remember that those who ignore history are not merely doomed to repeat its errors.

"They are also condemned to destroy the promise that history itself holds for them, reducing their efforts into a haphazard endeavour that presages more victims and executioners rather than a humanity triumphant over errors and indignities.

Youth activities extended

"Reason therefore should prevail when you confront each other in a dialogue that will draw the best that there is in each of you as representatives of the generation that will take over the leadership that will have to be yours soon," concluded Dr. Romulo.

Delegates agreed that in future SEATO should extend its activities in the field of youth work and give greater priority to it when planning future activities.

Among the many significant recommendations made at the seminar were the following:

1. That member countries establish a domestic volunteer service corps for purposes of furthering social and economic development;
2. That SEATO seek and promote ways and means of establishing more exchange programs between youth in the various Asian countries and also examine means of breaking down language barriers which prohibit ready exchange between youth of Asian countries;
3. That SEATO give its full support to the efforts of FAO in utilizing youth's force for the social and economic development of rural life — in particular to its program of "Freedom from Hunger";
4. That SEATO take steps to encourage each member nation to preserve its own particular culture while at the same time developing a proper perspective of this culture in relation to those of other nations;
5. That SEATO encourage multilateral exchange programs among youth which would permit them to live with families of other countries in the experiment.
6. That SEATO consider the establishment of an Asian Centre which will promote understanding through research and the interchange of students, scholars, technicians and books, in a two-way teaching, learning and living relationship. The training received in this centre should be passed on to the less-privileged compatriots in their respective countries.

Among observers attending the seminar were these young students from St. Theresa's College in Quezon City, Philippines.

The road to prosperity

AT Tak, in northern Thailand on March 12, the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, opened the base depot of the new Thai-Australian construction project, a sealed, all-weather road linking Tak with Mae Sod on the Burmese border.

The Prime Minister unveiled the signboard of the centre in the opening ceremony, and later thanked the Australian Government for its contribution and also the engineers serving here. He also presented royal decorations to some of them. Later, he blessed all mechanical equipment offered by Australia in a traditional Thai ceremony.

Australian and Thai engineers have already started work on the road and most of the plant and equipment contributed by Thailand and Australia has arrived on the project site.

Mountainous country

The Australian engineers estimate they will have to move 12.5 million cubic metres of earthwork and three million metres of rock excavation to complete the road. They are using bulldozers and excavators made in Australia.

The terrain is mountainous and full of deep ravines and it has taken the engineers nearly one year to build the first 15-mile section of the road. They are now about to enter the mountainous area. More than 500 workmen from Thailand are assisting the Australians who are being led by Mr. Anthony Whiteside of Victoria.

At the base depot, a large complex of houses, workshops and offices has been built and the Australian and Thai engineers and their families have moevd in. A second field depot has been built at Doi Murser, 30 kilometres along the route of the road from Tak.

So far $2,650,000 has been allotted for equipment plus $650,000 for housing, offices and workshops. Other expenditure will raise this figure to $1 million. A further $150,000 will be spent on the camp at Doi Murser.

It is estimated that the total budget for the project will be in the vicinity of $15 million, a third of which Australia will provide and the Thai Government two-thirds.

With the project in full swing, 23 Australian engineers and technicians, 50 Thai engineers, technicians and clerical staff and 400 plant operators, mechanics and labourers are on the job.

The 90-kilometre road will take about five years to complete. Construction delays are expected because of the many difficulties presented by the mountainous terrain and heavy earthworks this will involve and also because of seasonal wet weather which will hold up major work for three or four months each year.

Also, the project will be used to train Thai personnel in all phases of the work as most of the engineers, technicians and plant operators have had only a minimum of experience in road-building and engineering.

When the all-weather road is finished it will be 10 metres wide with a six metre wide sealed centre strip and the journey between the centres will be a comfortable two-hour trip.

As a contribution towards the economic development and political security of the area, the road is being given the highest priority by the Thai Government. When it is finished it will be a primary highway, the start at the western end of the main east-west highway system stretching across Thailand, connecting in the centre with the main north south "Friendship Highway" from Nongkai to Bangkok. The road has been proposed also as the entry point in Thailand of the Asian Highway from Burma.

The present road from Tak to Mae Sod, a river town on the Burmese border, is a mountainous track providing one-way traffic on alternate days. Frequent washaways, landslides and boggy stretches make the journey uncomfortable and sometimes hazardous, taking up to five hours by small country bus or jeep-type vehicles. During the wet season from July to October the journey can take all day. At the height of the wet season the road is closed to all traffic.

For one or two months of the year during the rainy season, Mae Sod is out off from the rest of Thailand except by air. Mae Sod is at the southern end of a lush and fertile valley in Tak province. The main produce from this highly productive valley at present is beef, cattle, rice and timber, mostly teak.

Placed as it is in an almost landlocked valley and with very limited access to markets in other parts of Thailand, this valuable rural industry cannot be developed to its fullest economic potential, nor can new industries be developed and exploited. The road will go a long way to provide an answer — an all-weather road leading to the rest of Thailand and its markets. It will also provide access to potentially rich mineral deposits at present being prospected in the mountains near Mae Sod.

Preliminary work on the road began in April last year when the Thai Project Manager, Dhirapol Nityavibul, and a small staff moved into temporary quarters at the base camp at Tak. Survey and design was carried out for the Thai Highways Department by a private firm of engineering consultants.

Heavy duty earth-moving equipment is pictured here on a stretch of the new road being built by Thai and Australian engineers to link Tak with Mae Sod 50 miles away.

The Australian force of engineers and technicians began moving in late last year. Some of them came from Khon Kaen in north-east Thailand where, for over three years, they worked on construction of a network of all-weather feeder roads. This project is now completed. The largest road in the network was opened by Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn in June last year.

In speech at the opening ceremony of the project, the Australian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. A.H. Loomes spoke of the importance of road construction in a nation's development.

"We in Australia", he said, "faced with problems of communication over vast and difficult distances, have long recognised the importance of road construction in a nation's development. That is why we have followed with close interest the impressive efforts of the Royal Thai Government to improve its network of roads throughout the country.

Mutual benefits

"We have also been privileged already to play a part in these efforts by cooperating with you in the construction of the feeder road system in Khon Kaen and surrounding provinces over the past four years. The mutual benefit deriving from this project, which Your Excellency officially opened last year, has been most heartening.

"We are confident," Mr. Loomes added, "that the good results achieved in this earlier project will be repeated here in the Tak-Mae Sod region. We are aware of the importance of this proposed highway in the plans of the Committee for the Development of the Northern Region, and as a part of your wider national development plans. We appreciate too that practical benefit will flow from it to your country

The Prime Minister of Thailand H.E. Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn is pictured above performing the traditional Thai blessing on items of equipment when he attended the opening ceremony last month of the Thai-Australian road construction project at Tak, Northern Thailand.

Pictured on the left is the compound in front of the road construction depot at Tak with the new office buldings in the background.

A bulldozer hard at work on a section of the new 50 mile road being built between Tak and Mae Sod in Northern Thailand. This joint project is being undertaken by Thai and Australian engineers.

The frist 15 miles of the road have already been built and it is now about to enter the mountainous area which is likely to slow up work due to difficult terrain with deep ravines.

generally and to your people in this area by giving access to regions hitherto relatively remote and by stimulating further economic development in the Province of Tak."

The planned Tak-Mae Sod highway, by virtue of the place it is due to occupy in the Asian Highway, was also of interest to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the many countries co-operating with the Commission in this region, said Mr. Loomes.

"Thailand and Australia travel many roads together. We are partners for security reasons in SEATO, for reasons of general cooperation and welfare in ASPAC, and for reasons of regional economic development and uplift within the Colombo Plan, ECAFE and other organizations.

A welcome prospect

"This habit of partnership makes the tackling of this new joint venture with our Thai friends a welcome prospect. Already our experts and their families are fitting into your community life and the job of building the road is already well in hand. As in the case of the Khon Kaen project, we look forward to providing not only on-the-job training and the exchange of technical knowledge and experience among Thais and Australians here, but also to offering complementary training in Australia for some of your men where they likewise can get to know our people at home."

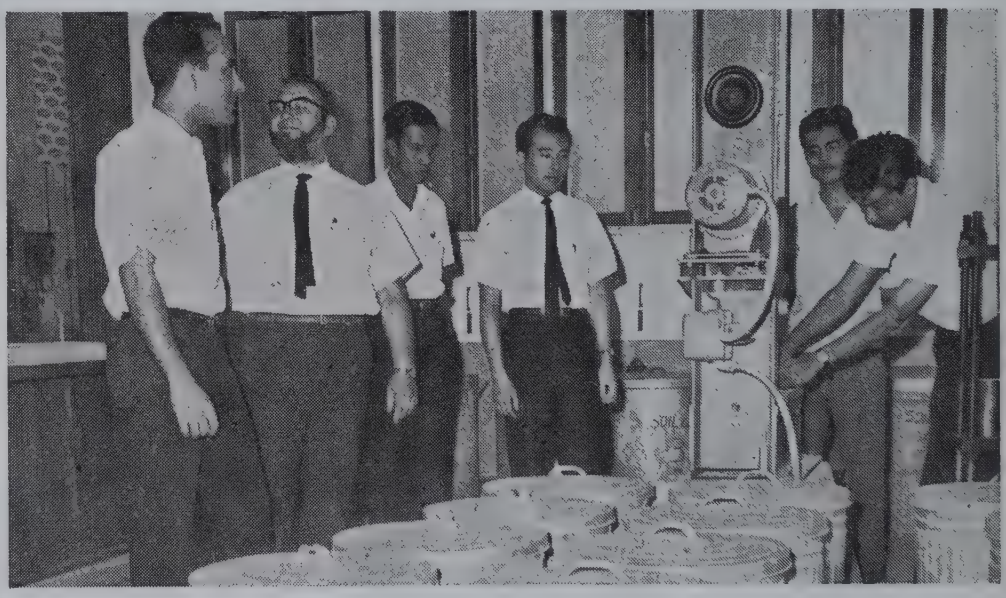
Some idea of the difficulties to be encountered by Thai and Australian engineers constructing the Tak-Mea Sod highway, can be gleaned from this picture of part of the present road as it turns and twists through thick jungle and deep gorges — in part little wider than a forest track.

GRAD. SCHOOL SPONSORS SOIL SEMINAR

ABOUT one hundred and fifty experts in soil engineering from 12 countries attended the South-East Asian Regional Conference held in Bangkok April 24-30, according to Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, Chairman of the Conference Committee and Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering.

The conference was under the joint sponsorship of the SEATO Graduate School, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the British Institution of Civil Engineers and the Engineering Institute of Thailand.

All conference sessions were held at the Montien Hotel, Suriwongse Rd., where the committee also arranged to stage an exhibition of soil testing and exploration equipment throughout the conference week.



The experts came from well-known engineering institutions in Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, India, Singapore and Canada.

Dr. T. William Lambe, professor and Head of the Soil Engineering Division, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, accepted the SEATO School's invitation to be principal speaker at the conference, the first purely technical meeting of its kind to be held in this region.

Fifty-seven papers were accepted for publication; about 25 of which were presented orally. Although discussions will cover problems relating to soil engineering in general, particular emphasis will be on the regional aspect. As Dr. Moh said: "Engineers often find they cannot apply methods and techniques developed in highly-industrialized countries directly to problems encountered in this region. Local conditions, which include the special characteristics of the soil deposits themselves call for revision and adaptation of those techniques."

Apart from scientific and technological matters, the participants also discussed the possibilities of forming a regional society of soil engineering. Up to now there has been little communication among soil engineers in the South-East Asia region, where countries undergoing rapid development share common problems and have similar resources.

Staff and students of the soil engineering faculty, SEATO Graduate School of Engineering, are shown inspecting a newly-acquired automatic soil compactor. In the foreground are containers of soil specimens from various parts of Thailand used in research projects. The school is sponsoring the regional soil conference to be held at the Montien Hotel April 24-30 in cooperation with the American Society of Civil Engineering, the British Institution of Civil Engineers and the Engineering Institute of Thailand.

From left are Ashad Mahmood, from Pakistan; Professor R.D. Mackey; Teeracharti Ruenkrairergse, from Thailand; Professor Za-Chieh Moh; Wang Wong, from Hongkong; and Alfonso S. Teves Jr., from the Philippines.

$5 M. LOAN TO BOOST YANHEE POWER

THE International Bank for Reconstruction and development (World Bank) has approved a loan equivalent to $5 million to the Yanhee Electricity Authority which supplies power in the most populated and developed part of Thailand.

The loan will assist in financing transmission facilities which are included in the current expansion program of the Authority; generating capacity will also be increased by a third, to about 670,000 kilowatts.

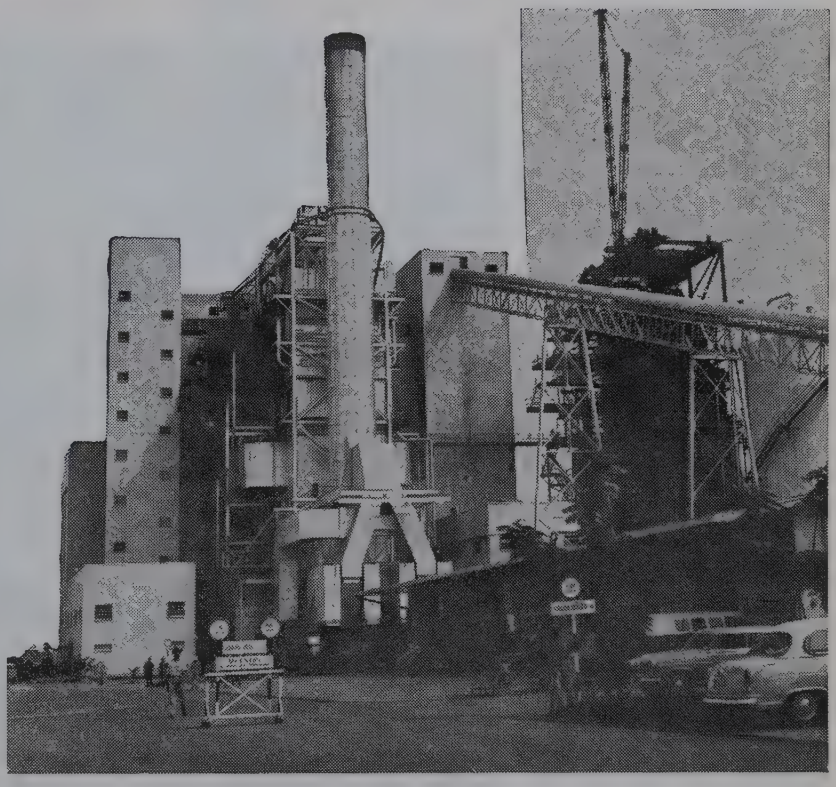
The program is being undertaken to keep pace with power requirements of the Authority's service area where demand is now growing at the unusually high rate of 34 per cent annually.

Thirteen commercial banks have agreed to participate in the loan, without the World Bank's guarantee, for a total amount of $1,220,000 representing the first eight maturities which fall due between February 15 1970 and August 15 1973.

Wide coverage

The Yanhee Electricity Authority was created in 1957 when the Bank made a loan of $66 million toward the construction of the Bhumibol (Yanhee) Dam and power plant on the Ping River in northern Thailand, and became an operating entity in 1961.

Its service area extends from Chiengmai in the north to both sides of the Gulf of Thailand in the south. YEA sells bulk power to two utilities, one which distributes power in Bangkok and the other which distributes power in rural areas; it also sells directly to a few large industries.



The picture above shows the completed first 75 M.W. power plant of the Yanhee project, with the second plant, of the same capacity under construction in the background.

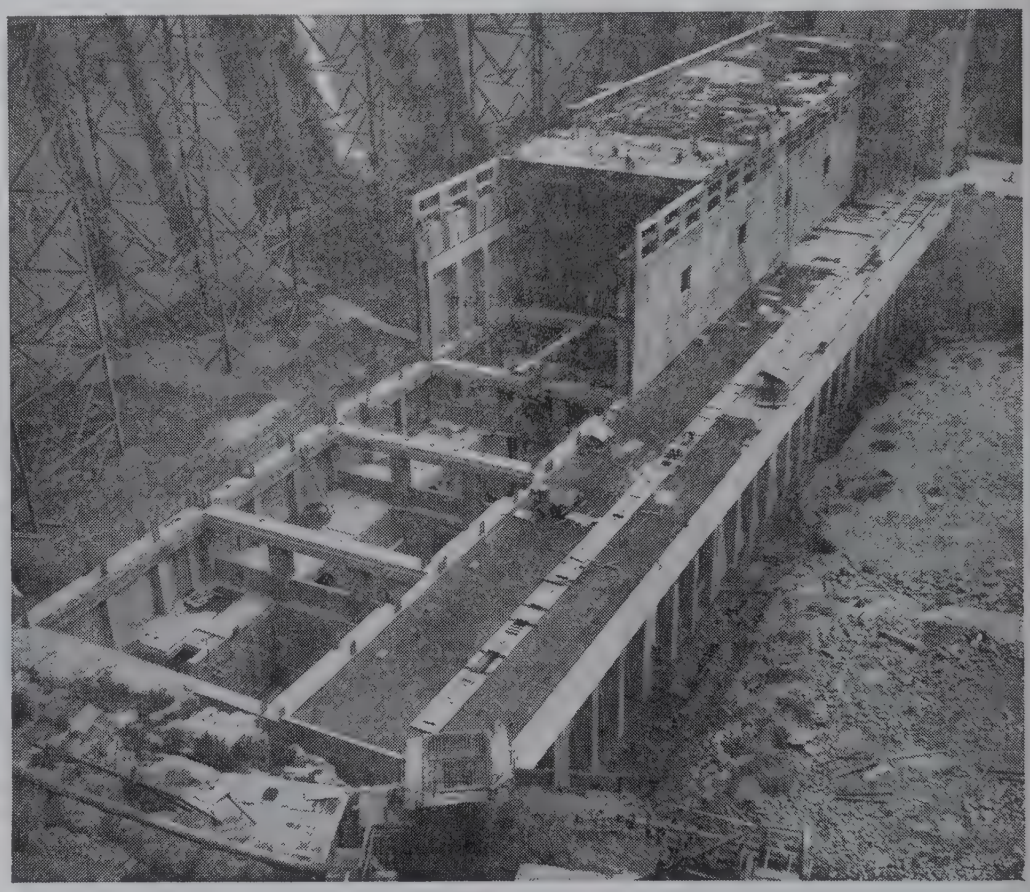
The Bangkok metropolitan area is the primary market and accounts for about 85 per cent of energy sales. Load growth on the YEA system has been high by normal standards since YEA first began operations five years ago, rising from 21 per cent to 34 per cent annually.

Bank loans in 1963 and 1965, totalling $12.6 million, were made for the installation of additional units at the Bhumibol Dam and for extension of the transmission system.

The rapid rate of growth has been due to the integration and modernization of distribution facilities in Bangkok, reliable bulk power supplies adequate to meet all demands, an incentive type of rate structure, and major economic expansion which is occuring primarily in the Bangkok area.

The current growth rate of 34 per cent is not expected to decrease during the next year or two. The system is expected to become short of firm energy by 1970 and to meet requirments, the YEA management decided in mid-1966 to provide additional capacity by 1969. This includes the installation of an 87,500 kilowatt unit at its 150,000 kilowatt steam plant in northern Bangkok and the installation of the fifth and sixth 70,000-kilowatt units at the Phumibol Dam.

The total cost of the program is estimated at the equivalent of $31.4 million, of which $21.1 million will be in foreign exchange. The World Bank loan will finance $5 million of the foreign exchange costs and the Bank of Thailand is providing an additional $10 million. The remaining costs will be provided from YEA's own resources. All equipment and supplies financed under the Bank loan are being procured on the basis of international competitive bidding.



A scene during the early days of construction of the Yanhee Dam power project showing a general view of the power house with its unit bays.

Unity—progress are Pakistan's aims, says Pres. Ayub

PAKISTAN celebrated its National Day on March 23. In his address to mark the occasion President Ayub Khan said the Government and people were resolved to build Pakistan into a united modern and progressive state.

"The immediate objectives before us," he said, "are to secure the safety of our homeland, to raise the standard of living of our people, to provide for better and greater education, and to work for peace and harmony in our internal and external affairs".

The present Constitution, he added, had brought about effective participation of the people in the affairs of the country down to the village level. This was something that had to be seen to be believed. There was far greater participation of the masses in the affairs of the country and they were becoming more and more aware of the national needs. "Every Union Council is becoming the focal point of the life of the community. The people are no longer under the traditional influences as they used to be. They are developing a much more questioning attitude. This is truly a revolutionary change in our social set-up and cannot be lost sight of," said the President.

Regarding Pakistan's political set-up the President said the Parliamentary system had been tried and failed Nobody in his right senses would wish to revert to it. The present system, on the other hand had been tried and proved effective. "That, however, does not mean that we should not change our system with the change in circumstances if they so warrant. But change for the sake of change and emotionalism would be the height of absurdity and political opportunism.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIAN AID TO ASIAN STUDENTS

The Australian Council of Churches has allocated $6,000 to World Student Christian Federation work in Asia this year.

Of this, $1,000 will be spent to provide a student secretary within the East Asian Christian Conference, $1,000 will be spent on a student secretary in a selected Asian country, and $4,000 will be spent on student leader training.

The student leader training allocation will enable student leaders to arrange study and training programmes in 15 Asian countries. Details of the grant were annouced by the ACC which will spend $143,500 on aid and development projects in Asia this year.

The ACC said there were a minimum of 810,000,000 youths in Asia under the age of 19 years. Among the upper age group, the proportion of students receiving higher education was relatively high.

India had more than 1,000,000 students; Indonesia had 60,000; the Philippines, 100,000; Thailand, 20,000; South Korea, 100,000; Taiwan, 30,000; and Japan, 130,000. Study conditions were often difficult with books scarce and language problems predominant.

The ACC stressed that Asian universities and institutions of higher learning were also agencies of social change, much more than their western counterparts. "The role of national student Christian movements in Asian student life cannot be under-estimated," it said. (AIS)

France launches first nuclear sub.

On 29th March France's first nuclear-powered submarine, the "Redoutable", was launched at Cherbourg. It is to be one of a series of three nuclear submarines to be built under the 1965-1970 program and which will form the third generation of the French strategic nuclear force (the first two consisted of the Mirage IV manned bomber and the intermediate-range surface-to-surface missile). Work will soon begin on the building of a second nuclear submarine.

The "Redoutable" is equipped with 16 intermediate range sea-to-surface strategic ballistic missiles (MSBS) which have been perfected and tested since April 1966.

C.D. EXPERT STUDIES RURAL MANPOWER

A SEATO fellowship brought Mr. Solomon Baclayon Jr. (pictured right below) from the Office of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development (PACD) to Thailand to collect material for a study of rural manpower mobilization for community development.

Shown in discussion with him is Mr. Payungsak Sesawech, Chief of Foreign Cooperation Division, Office of Accelerated Rural Development. Mr. Baclayon will visit Israel, Pakistan and Taipei to complete his SEATO-sponsored study.

Thailand hard working and progressive

George W. Ball, former U.S. Under-Secretary of State says there are great opportunities for rapid development of the industrial economy of Thailand.

Mr. Ball, who is now associated with an American international investment banking firm, gave this opinion at the conclusion of a recent 2-day visit to Thailand during which he held consultation with high Thai officials.

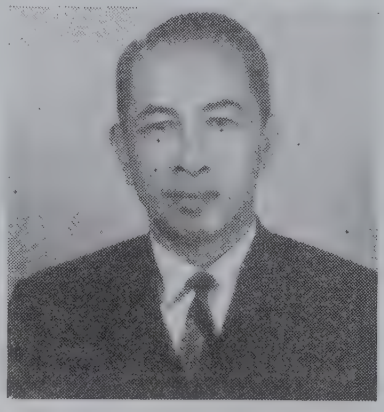
"It seems to me", he said, "that there is a great sense of vitality in Thailand at the moment; that the economy offers great promise for development, that people are working hard and Thailand seems to me to be entering a phase where it may be possible to move ahead quickly."

According to Mr. Ball, Thailand is a "country of very special interest." It has a "reservoir of diligent labor," making possible the development of transfor-

mation industries—ones importing raw materials and then selling the products on the world market—and at the same time "this is a country with very great raw materials itself, resources that are not yet fully developed in many areas and where... there can be a much more intensive and broadened development... so that it won't be merely a matter of importing raw materials and transforming them," the former Under-Secretary said.

Mr. Ball praised Thai leadership in the regional development of South-East Asia, encouraging a greater sense of cohesion in the area and aiding institutional development.

FILIPINO IS NEW SEATO DIRECTOR FOR C.D.



Mr. Alfonso B. Castro has assumed the post of Director of Community Development at SEATO Headquarters. His office will enable SEATO member governments to exchange information on community development projects and assist one another in this field. The office will make surveys and recommend joint action in community development activities.

Mr. Castro was acting assistant director of the Office of National Planning, of the National Economic Council in the Philippines from 1964 until his appointment to SEATO.

He had previously served the council as senior economist and chief of the agricultural resources branch. He was assistant economist to the Philippine Council for US Aid from 1951 to 1955.

France offers 60 fellowships

The French Government announced recently that 32 scholarships were offered to Thai postgraduate students for the academic year 1967-1968.

In addition to this, France offers now 60 other fellowships within the framework of its technical cooperation programs in 1967. These 60 new fellowships are intended to offer to any student, employee, engineer or civil servant, who has a fair experience in his speciality, the opportunity to go to France for professional training. These fellowships provide:

(1) A monthly allowance of 750 francs intended to cover housing and living expenses;

(2) Entrance fee into technical organizations, institutes or laboratories;

(3) A refund, up to 200 francs, of the expenses incurred for the purchase of books or technical documentation in French;

(4) A refund of travelling expenses in France for journeys required by the training course.

N.Z. blames Hanoi for continuing war

New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. Keith Holyoake says that failure to end the Viet-Nam conflict rests fully with Hanoi.

"There can now be no doubt whatsoever, in New Zealand or anywhere else, where the responsibility for the continuation of the Viet-Nam war lies," Mr. Holyoake said in a press statement on March 31.

The Prime Minister was commenting on the exchange of letters between President Johnson and President Ho Chi Minh in February and on Hanoi's reaction to U Thant's latest peace initiative.

Mr. Holyoake said that he shared the disappointment which all New Zealand would be feeling over the failure of these peace initiatives. "The situation in Viet-Nam has however, several encouraging aspects," said Mr. Holyoake. "There is now no prospect that the allies will suffer military defeat and remarkable progress has been made toward the restoration of representative government."

PUKET VISIT BY BRITRISH NAVAL SHIPS

Two minesweepers of the British Royal Navy recently paid a four-day courtesy visit to Puket. They were HMS. KIRKLISTON and HMS. BOSSINGTON.

The Commanding Officers, Lt. Commander L.A. Wilkinson and Lt. Commander J.P.R. Saunt, together with the Naval Attache of the British Embassy, Commander D.G. Matthews, paid their respects to His Excellency the Governor of Puket, Nai Ouan Surakul.

The ships were open to visitors over the weekend and officers and men from the ships played football against the Puket town team.

CHOLERA LAB. ANNUAL MEETING

Colonel S. A. Mallik, (centre), Director of Health Services, Government of East Pakistan, is pictured here presiding over the sixth annual meeting of the Directing Council of the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory which concluded its two-day session on March 9.

Others, from the left, are: Mr. Patrick G. Talmon, Executive Officer, PSCRL; Dr. J. F. Rogier, Chief Public Health Advisor, U. S. Agency for International Development (AID), Dacca; Dr. Robert S. Gordon, Clinical Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Maryland; David A. Wraight, Deputy Secretary General, SEATO, Bangkok; Dr. Robert Cruickshank, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of the West Indies; Dr. Wiliard Boynton, Senior Public Health Officer, U.S. AID, Pakistan; Louis Sekutowitz, Consul General for France in Dacca and Dr. Kendrick Hare, Deputy Director of PSCRL. Back to camera is Dr. Robert A. Phillips, Director of PSCRL.

U.K. courses for two Thai officials

Two officials of the Royal Thai Government left Bangkok at the end of March to attend courses in the United Kingdom under the auspices of the Colombo Plan. They are Mr. Phairat Decharin and Mr. Charoon Lokakalin, both from the Department of Community Development.

Mr. Phairat will attend a three-month course entitled "Development of the Rural Sector" to be held at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. Mr. Charoon will attend a three-month course on Community Development at the Institute of Education at the University of London.

This latter course is run by Dr. T.R. Batten and his wife, both of whom were here in Thailand last October and November running a seminar for the Department of Community Development. This also was under the auspices of the Colombo Plan scheme.

Yet another Colombo Plan trainee returned recently from studies in Britain. He is Dr. Uthai Sudsukh of the Ministry of Public Health, who has been attending a course in Public Health Administration and in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. (BIS).

NATO marks 18th treaty anniversary

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) marked April 4 the 18th anniversay of the treaty's signing in Washington by the 12 original members — the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Italy, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Portugal and the U.S. The Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Turkey joined later.

While seeking a broadening of political consultation and improvement of East-West relations, NATO members have made it equally clear they are determined not to compromise the organization's role of peace guardian.

The North Atlantic Council — consisting of representatives of all 15 member countries — set the course of the alliance's future in its most recent ministerial meeting in Paris last December.

The ministers decided to seek "better relations with the Soviet Union and the states of Eastern Europe in the political, economic, social, scientific and cultural fields." A communique said NATO's willingness to explore ways of developing cooperation with the Communist Eastern European countries is in the interest and benefit of all concerned.

ECAFE TACKLES FOOD DILEMMA

The problems of too many people and not enough food in the developing countries of Asia has been overshadowing a meeting of ECAFE in Tokyo.

Representatives of 44 countries last month attended the meeting of ECAFE — the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

The task of feeding the teeming populations of developing countries of Asia has been made harder in recent years by a lower level of food production. The ordinary person in Asia is getting less to eat than before the war, and in the past five years, food production has been unable to catch up with population growth.

The biggest drop in food output in the past year was in India, but Cambodia, Burma, Ceylon, South Viet-Nam and Thailand also suffered setbacks in their agriculture.

Burma and Thailand, normally rice-exporting countries, found their export surpluses reduced at a time when other Asian countries were suffering from shortages and wanted to import more food.

The Executive Secretary of ECAFE, U Nyun, asked countries giving aid to Asia to make terms of repayment easier.

The Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Hasluck, and the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr. Malik, were both elected Deputy Chairmen of the ECAFE meeting. The Chairman was the Chief Japanese delegate, Mr. Asaki. (AIS).

U.S. BID FOR RED CROSS TO VISIT P.O.W.S.

The U.S. has called on North Viet-Nam to allow an independent authority, such as the International Red Cross, to visit American prisoners held by the Hanoi Government, and observe their treatment.

An American State Department spokesman said that in the absence of such independent verification, North Viet-Nam's professions of humane treatment of prisoners could not be accepted.

The spokesman said, "We are concerned at recent indications that North Viet-Nam may be using mental or physical pressure on American prisoners of war to obtain confessions or statements critical of U.S. policy in Viet-Nam". The spokesman added that North Viet-Nam might be holding as many as 382 U.S. airmen, marine flyers and navy pilots shot down during raids on the North.

MPO poses for picture

Members of the SEATO Military Planning Office were photographed recently outside the Organization's Bangkok Headquarters on the occasion of the M.P.O. 10th anniversary. In the front row (left to right) are:

Captain R.J. Scrivenor RAN (Australian Military Advisers Representative); Colonel N.R. Ingle OBE, MVO E.D. (New Zealand Military Advisers Representative); Group Captain Kamal Ahmed P.A.F. (Pakistan Military Advisers Representative); Captain R.G. Lavadia (Philippines Military Advisers' Representative); Major General Abichart Dhiradhamrong (Chief, Military Planning Office); Brigadier General William J. Meng USAF (Deputy Chief, Military Planning Office); Colonel Krisn Cheecharerm RTA (Thai Military Advisers Representative); Colonel C.H.M. Toye OBE (United Kingdom Military Advisers Representative); Colonel W.J. Adams, U.S. Army (United States Military Advisers Representative).

On your Bookshelf

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ROBINSON, Thomas W. A National Interest Analysis of Sino-Soviet Relations. Santa Monica, Rand Corporation. 1966. 67p. (P-3319)

Seato Publications

(The following publications may be obtained, on request, from the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquarters, P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.)

SEATO Annual Report 1965-66 (English, Thai) — by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO.

SEATO: 1954-1964 (Thai) — A pictorial and written review of 10 years of SEATO progress.

Story of SEATO (English, Thai)
Information pamphlet on SEATO with notes on member countries.

Manila Pact and Pacific Charter
Texts of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty and the Pacific Charter, with explanatory notes.

Gandhara Sculpture in Pakistan (English, Thai)
The origin and development of Gandhara art.

Aspects of the History, Culture and Religions of Pakistan
Lectures by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Karachi, as a travelling lecturer under the SEATO Cultural Program.

Interpretative Translations of Thai Poets
by M.R. Seni Pramoj.

SEATO Activities Under the Cultural Relations Program
SEATO activities from 1957-1964 in the field of education.

Post-graduate Studies in Asian SEATO Countries
A guide for applicants for SEATO post-graduate scholarships.

Collective Security: Shield of Freedom (Revised, 1963)
The nature and scope of the various collective security pacts linking 41 nations of the Free World. Foreword by Mr. Pote Sarasin, former Secretary-General of SEATO. 165 pp.

Medical
Research into Disease—I: Cholera (Pakistan—SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory).
Research into Disease — II: The Search for Health (SEATO medical projects in Thailand).

Community Development
Report of the SEATO Seminar on Community Development, July 19-23, 1965.

Skilled Workers for the Armed Forces (English, Thai)
A description of the SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.

Training Workers for Developing Industries (English, Thai)
An account of the SEATO Skilled Labour Project in Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

Posters:
Better Communications for Better Living (English, Thai)
Skilled Hands for National Progress (English, Thai)
The Painter's View of his Country — I
Good Health Key to National Prosperity

Communist Economic Subversion: A Reappraisal
by Dr. Hans Heymann Jr. A discussion of the growing Communist reliance on economic measures as tools of foreign policy.

Peking on Revolution
Extracts from speeches and articles on the 90th anniversary of the birth of Lenin indicating the demand for revolutionary uprising.

Communism in Decline: the Huk Campaign
by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas.

Printed by Chaveng Chavengthamarat at the Thai Sambhand Printing Press, 62-64, Fuang Nakorn Road, Bangkok, April 1967

SEATO SECRETARY GENERAL JESUS M. VARGAS WAVES GOODBYE AS HE BOARDS HIS AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON AND THE 12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SEATO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. ACCOMPANYING HIM IS HIS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, LIEUT. COL. J.L. REYNA.